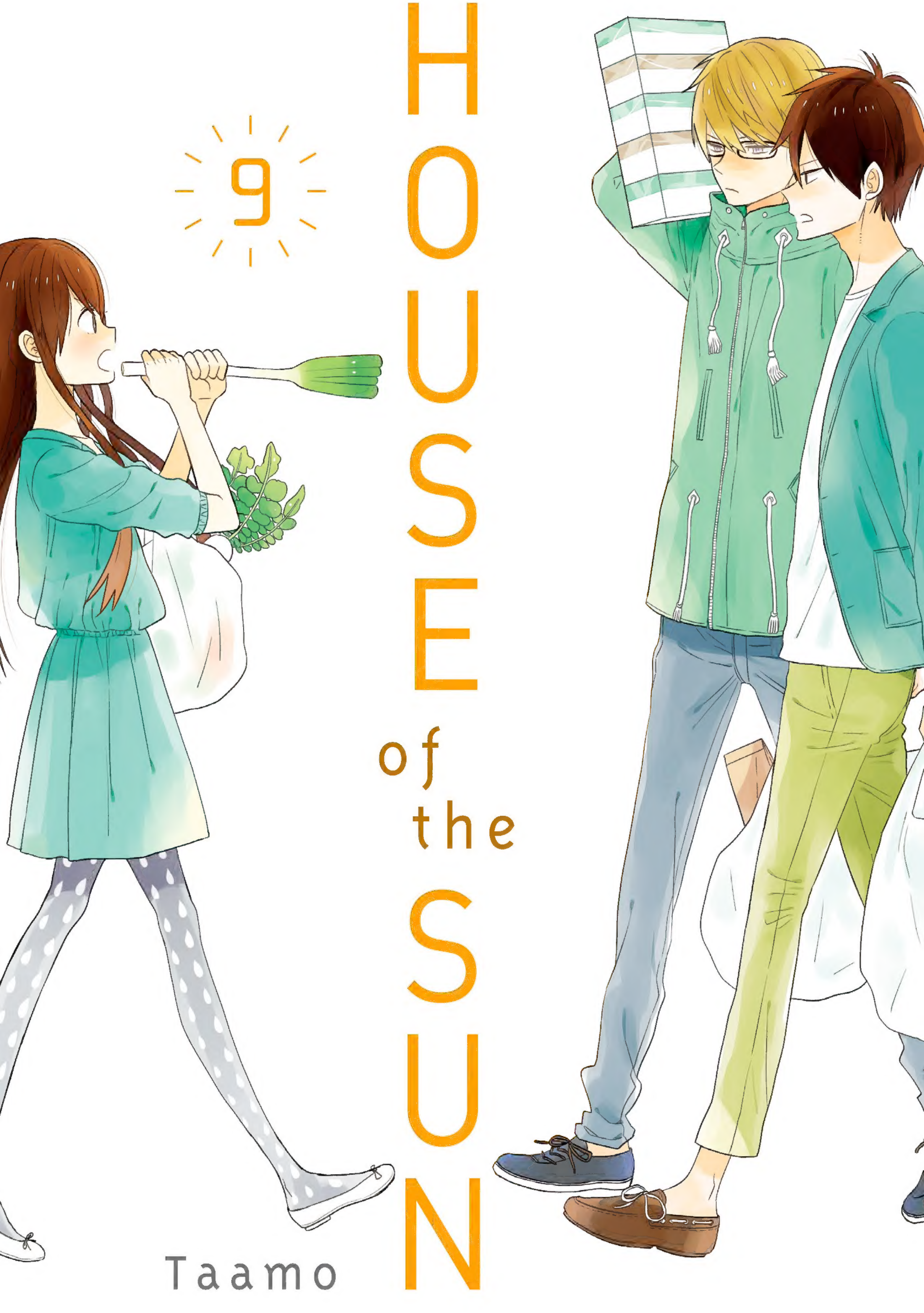


9

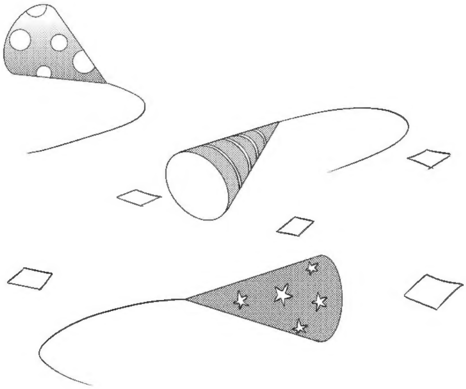
HOUSE of the SUN

Taamo

HOUSE of the SUN

9

by Taamo



CONTENTS

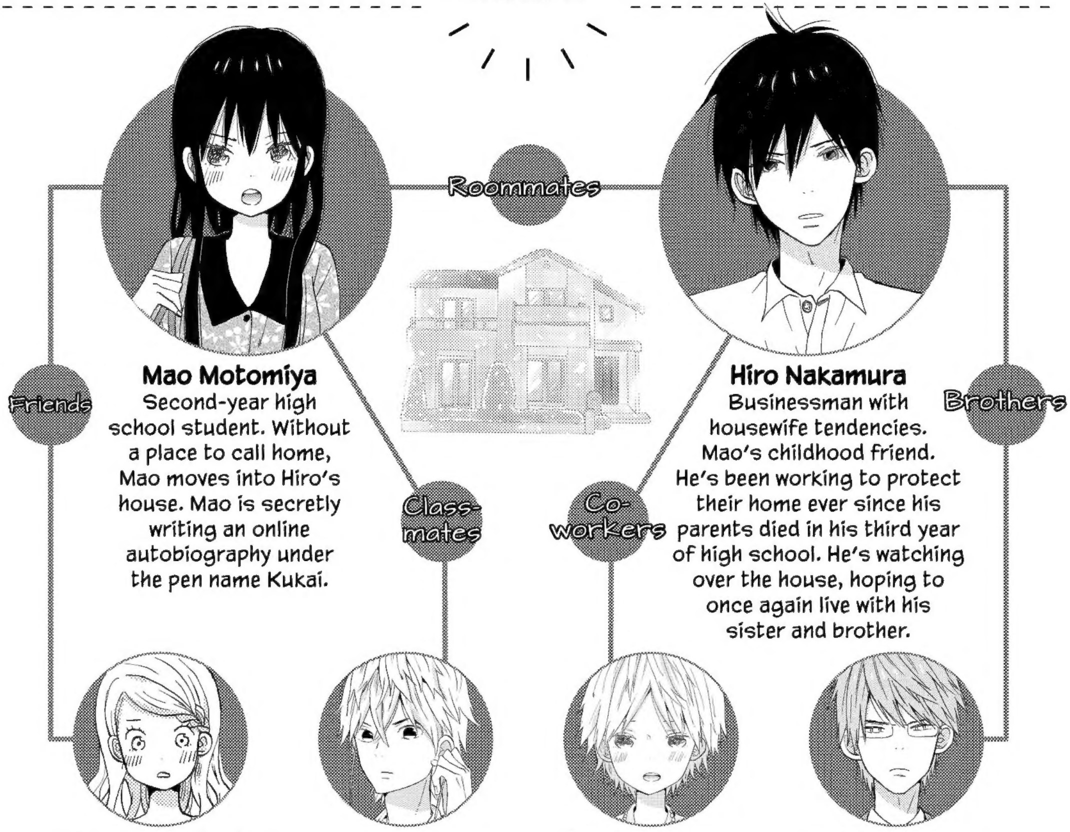
Story 33
The Facade and the Truth
4

Story 34
Restless
45

Story 35
Boundary Line
83

Story 36
Ever Since We Were Children
121

CHARACTER



Mao Motomiya
Second-year high school student. Without a place to call home, Mao moves into Hiro's house. Mao is secretly writing an online autobiography under the pen name Kukai.

Hiro Nakamura
Businessman with housewife tendencies. Mao's childhood friend. He's been working to protect their home ever since his parents died in his third year of high school. He's watching over the house, hoping to once again live with his sister and brother.

Chi-chan (Chihiro)
Mao's friend. She likes Oda-kun and confessed to him, but was turned down. Is she launching another attack?

Oda-kun
Mao's classmate since first year. Had a thing for Mao, but was rejected and is heartbroken. And now his relationship with Chihiro has become somewhat strange?

Sugimoto-san
Hiro's coworker. She's a fan of Mao's novel. Her nickname is "Radical." She confessed her feelings to Hiro, but...

Daiki Nakamura
Hiro's little brother. In his second year of high school. He moved in with an uncle after their parents died, but he has decided to return to the Nakamura house. He's in the same class as Mao.

STORY

After her father gets remarried, Mao feels like she no longer has a home, and, aiming for independence, she is now staying with her childhood friend Hiro.

Hiro's younger brother Daiki recently moved in, and the three of them are all living together. Hiro is kind and takes good care of Mao, and she's fallen for him.

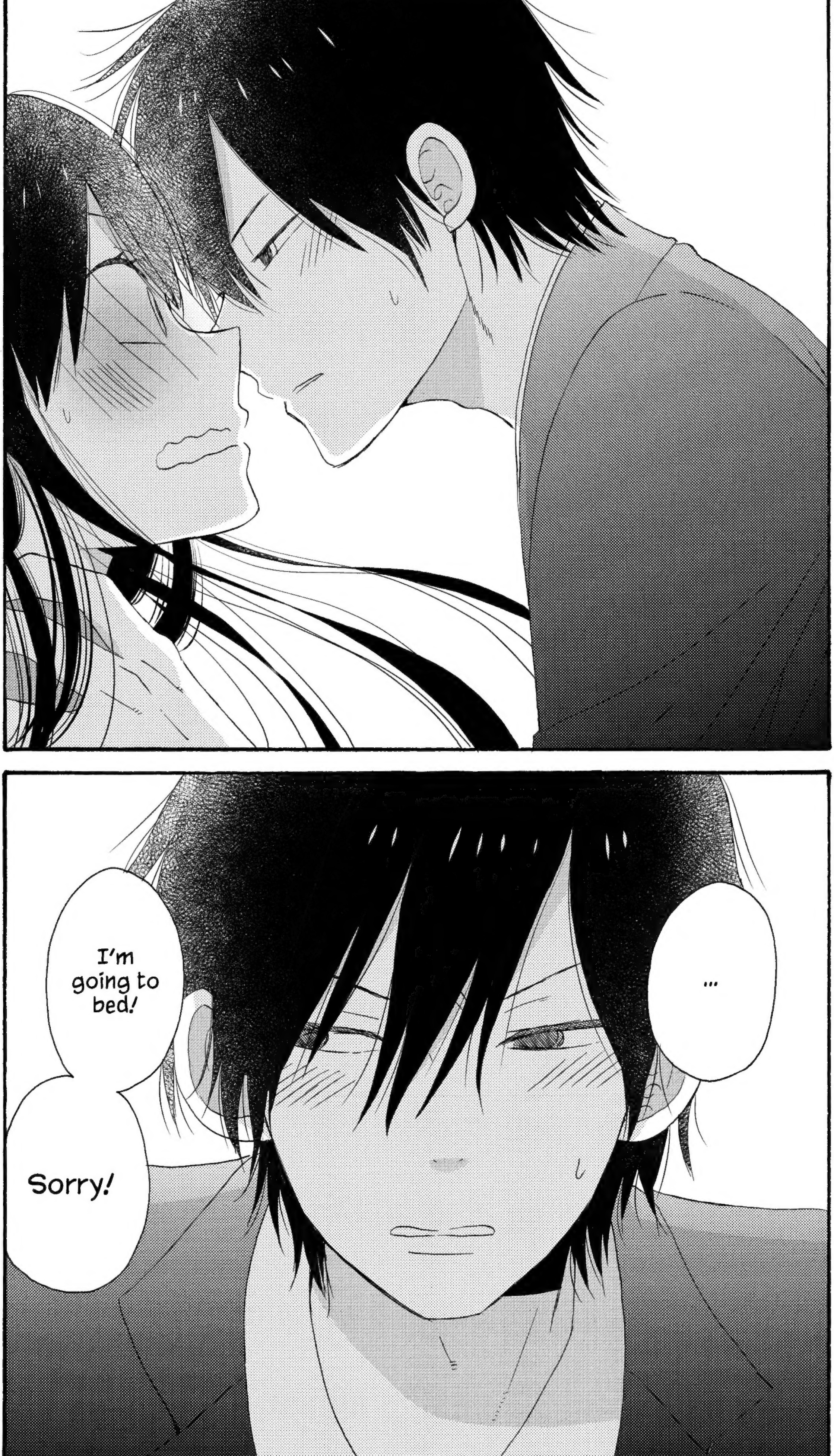
Daiki secretly has feelings for Mao... Is he now ready to reveal them...? At the same time, Mao's friend and romantic rival Radical-san has confessed her feelings to Hiro. Hiro turns her down and returns home, but as soon as he arrives, he suddenly kisses Mao?!

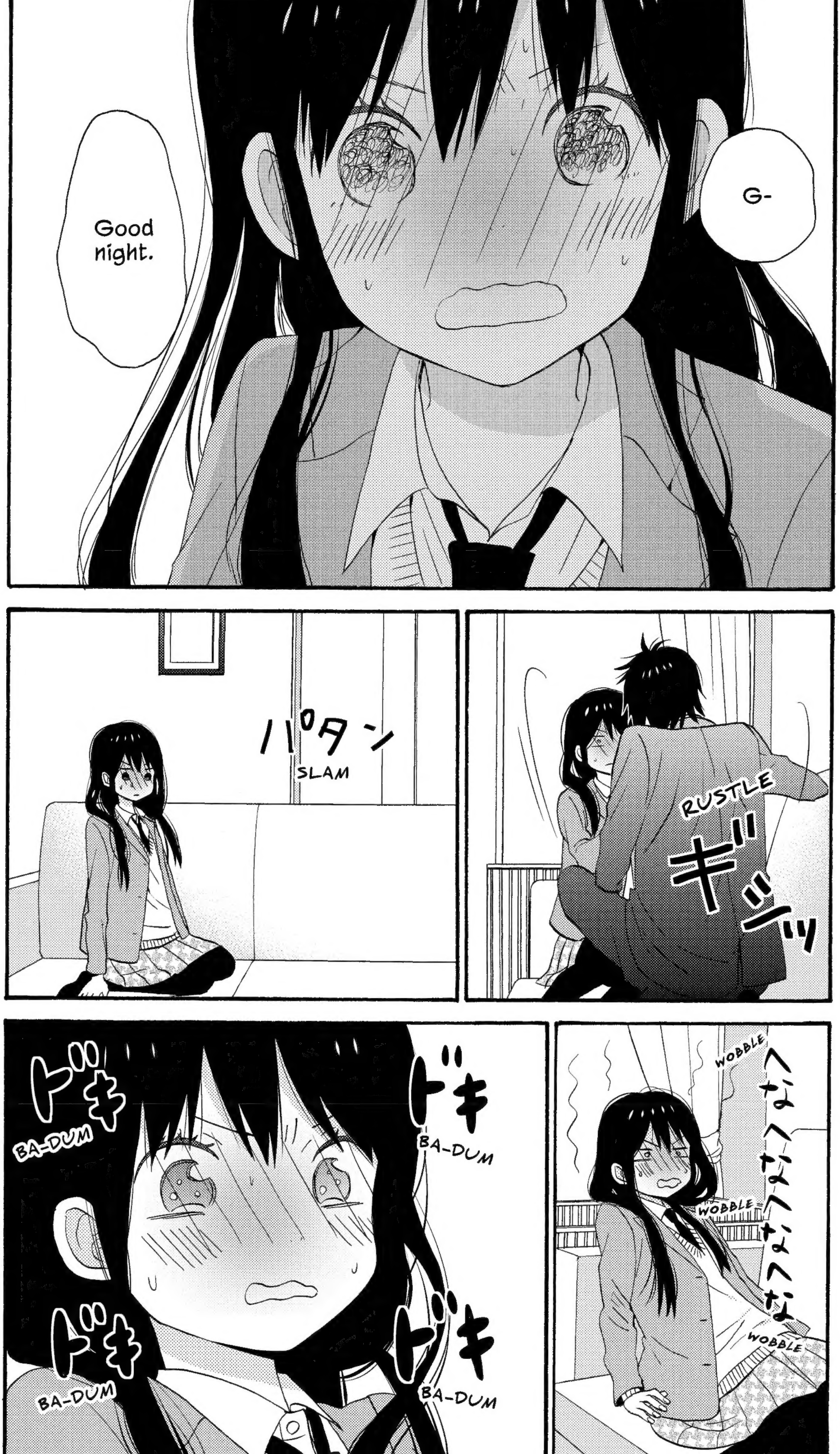
story 33 The Facade and the Truth

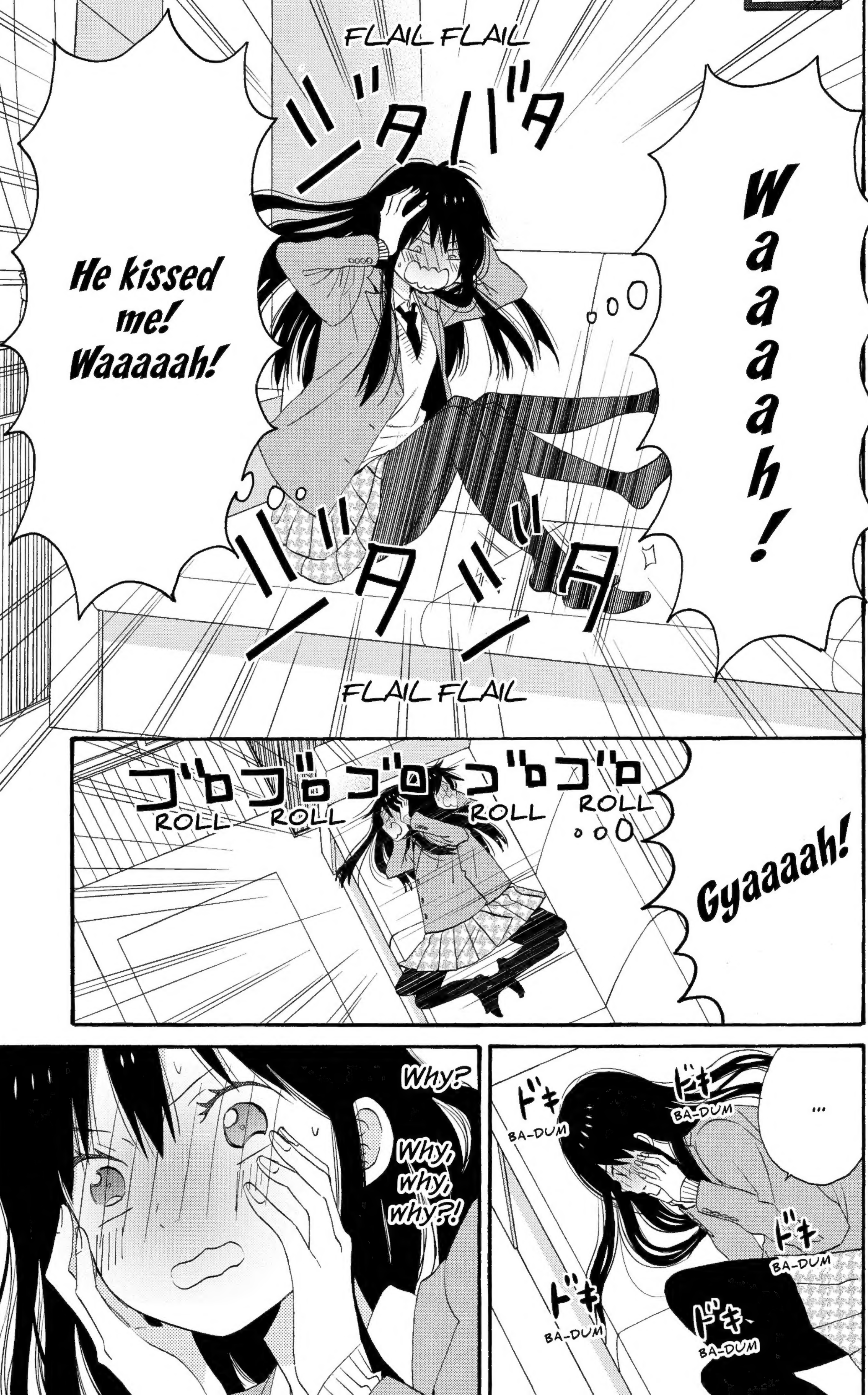
It's Volume 9!

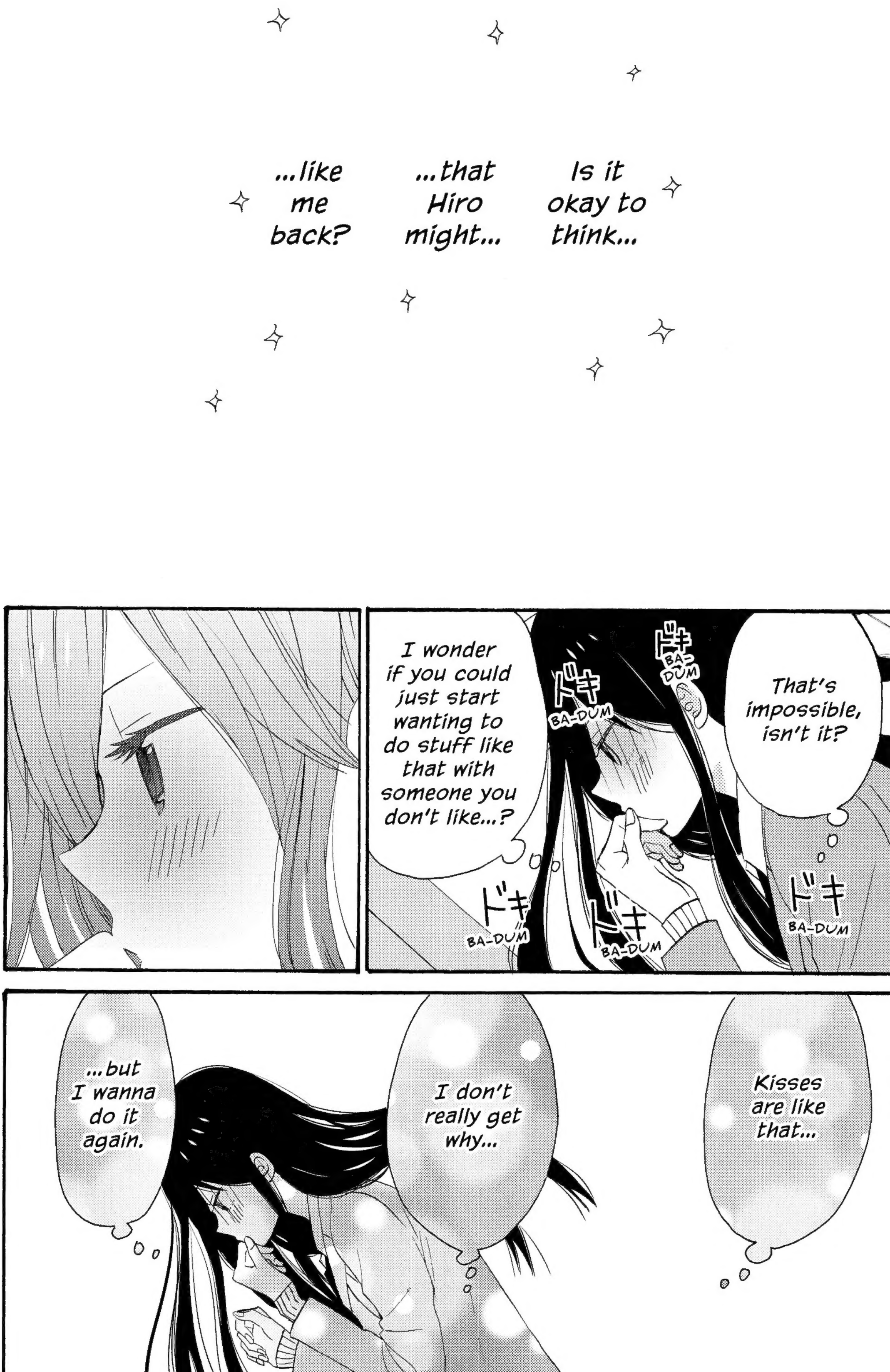
I hope you enjoy it!

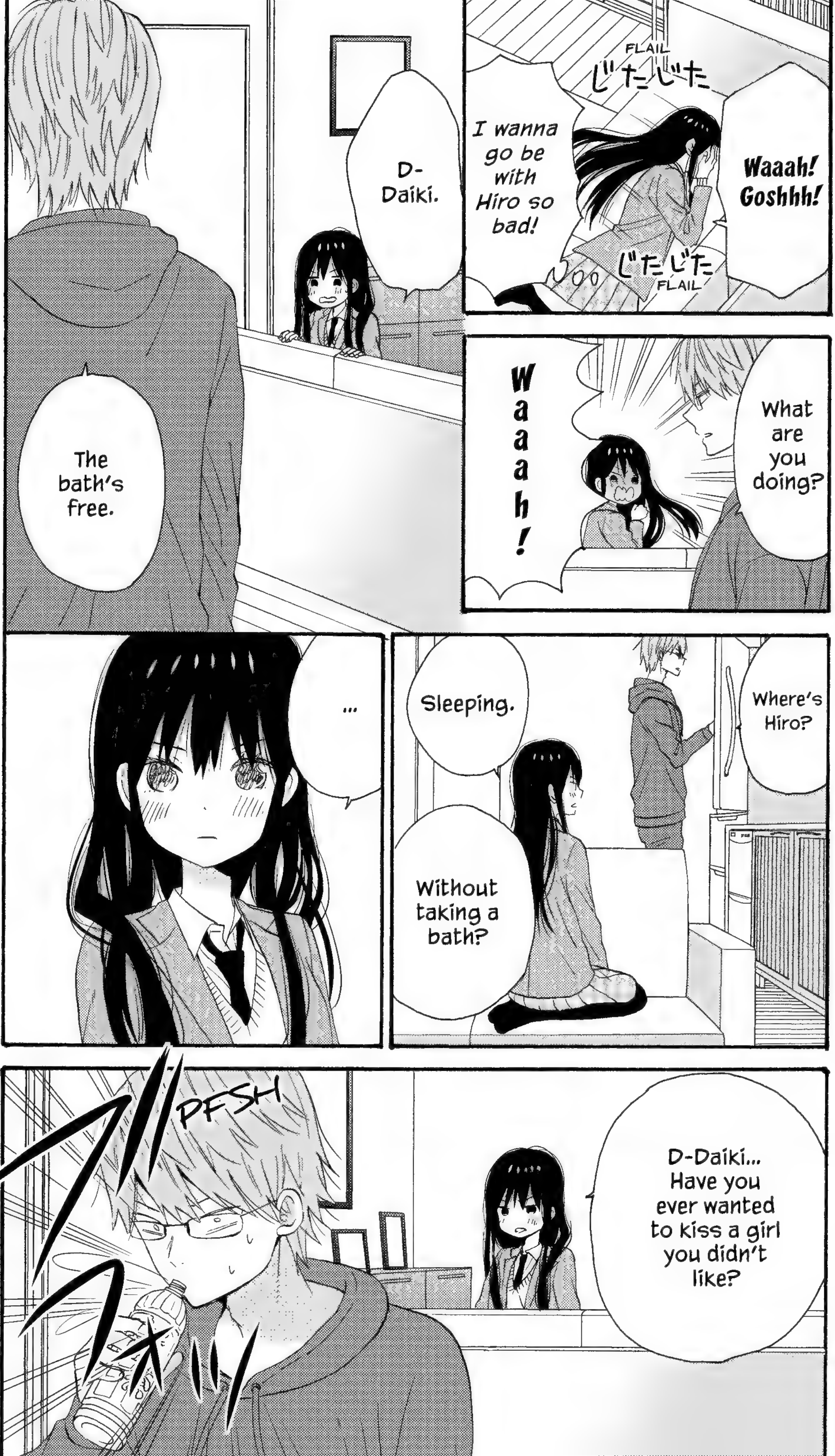
Taamo

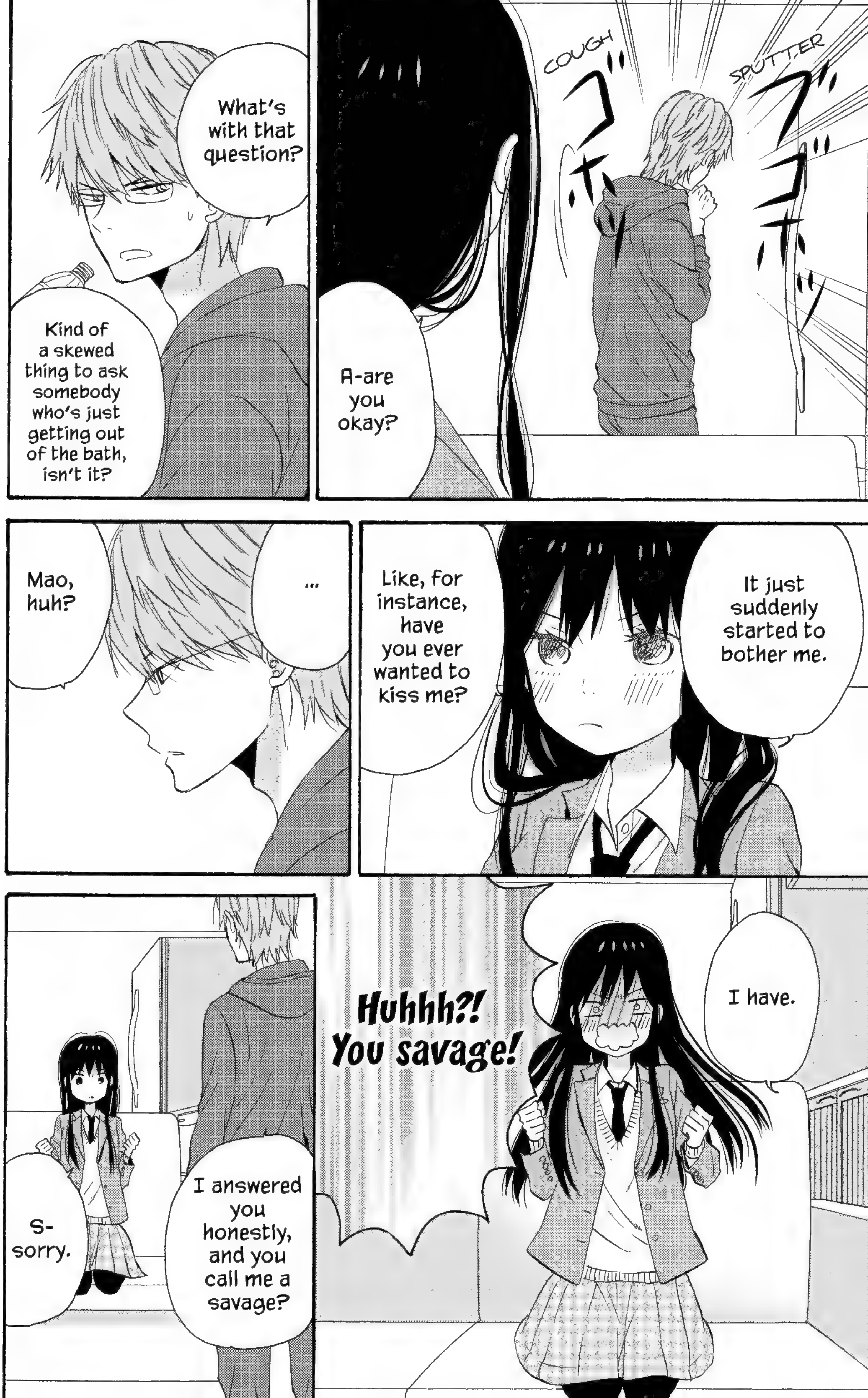

…
I'm going to bed!
Sorry!

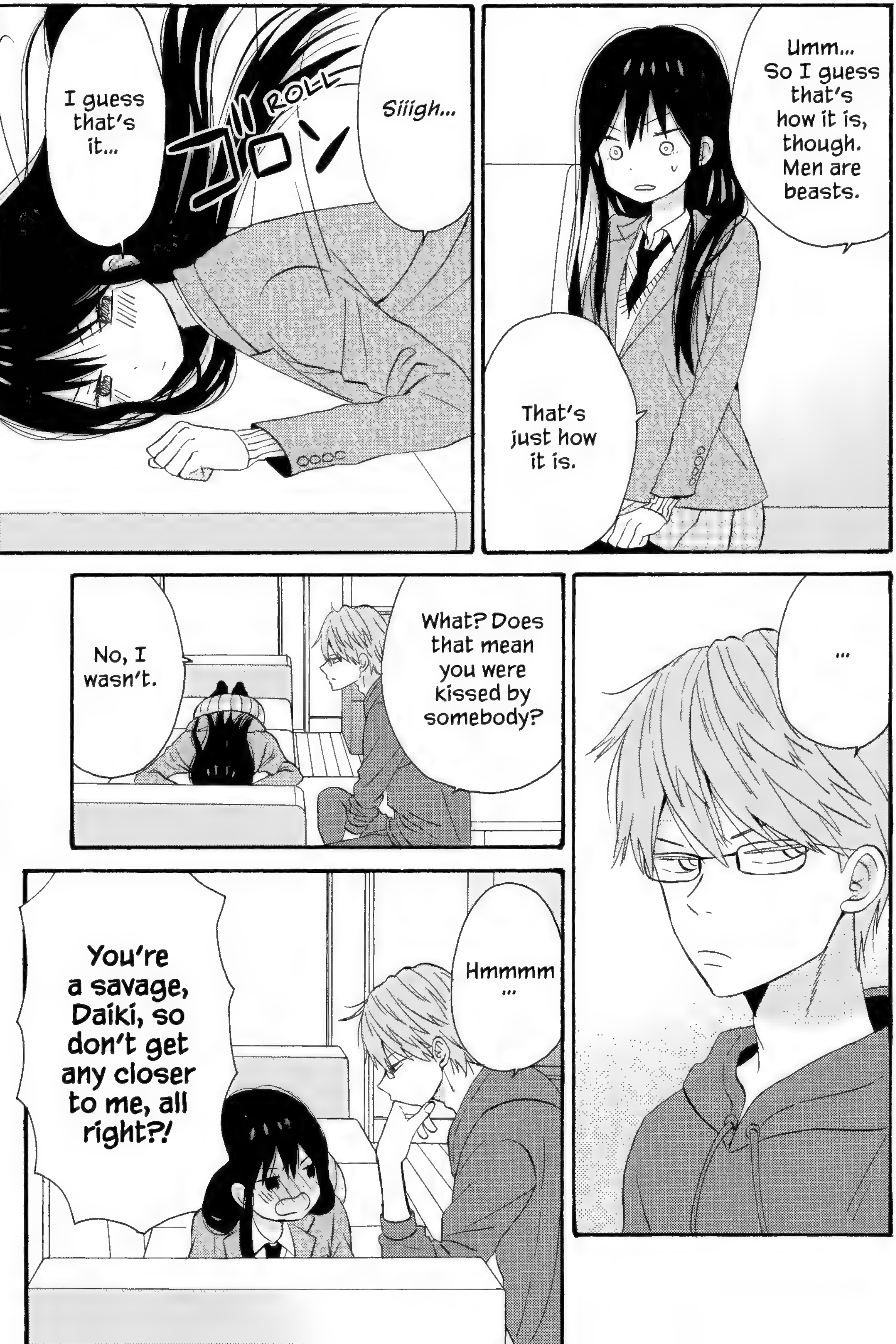

G-
Good night.
ギッ
RUSTLE
パタン
SLAM
へなへなへなへな
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM

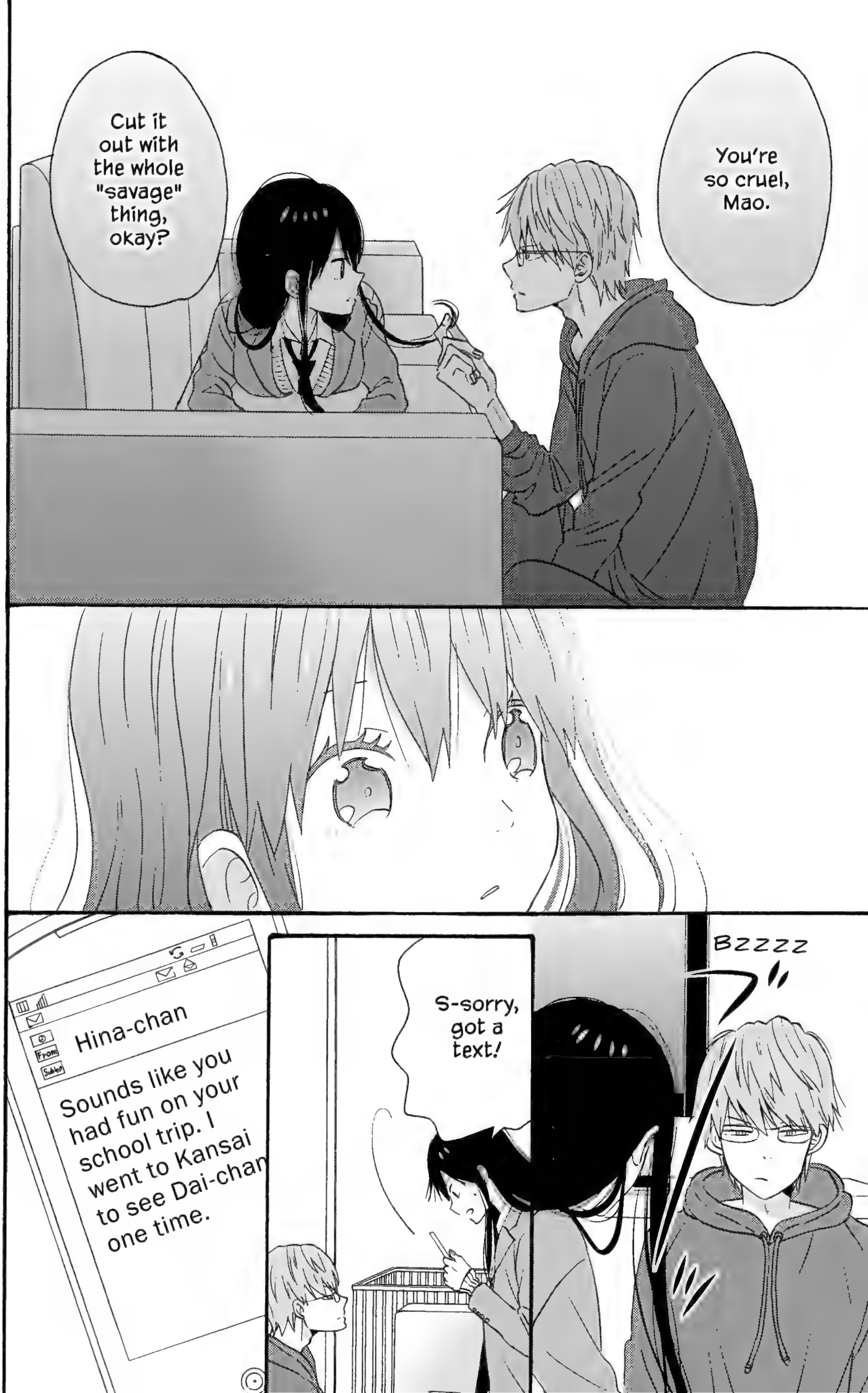

Waaaaah!
ジタバタ
FLAIL FLAIL
He kissed me! Waaaaah!
ジタバタ
FLAIL FLAIL
Gyaaaah!
ゴロゴロゴロゴロ
ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL
...
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
Why?
Why, why, why?!


Is it okay to think...
...that Hiro might...
...like me back?
That's impossible, isn't it?
ドキ BA-DUM
ドキ BA-DUM
ドキ BA-DUM
I wonder if you could just start wanting to do stuff like that with someone you don't like...?
ドキ BA-DUM
ドキ BA-DUM
Kisses are like that...
I don't really get why...
...but I wanna do it again.


Waaah! Goshhh!
I wanna go be with Hiro so bad!
じたじた FLAIL
じたじた FLAIL
What are you doing?
Waaah!
D-Daiki.
The bath's free.
Where's Hiro?
Sleeping.
Without taking a bath?
...
D-Daiki... Have you ever wanted to kiss a girl you didn't like?
PFSH

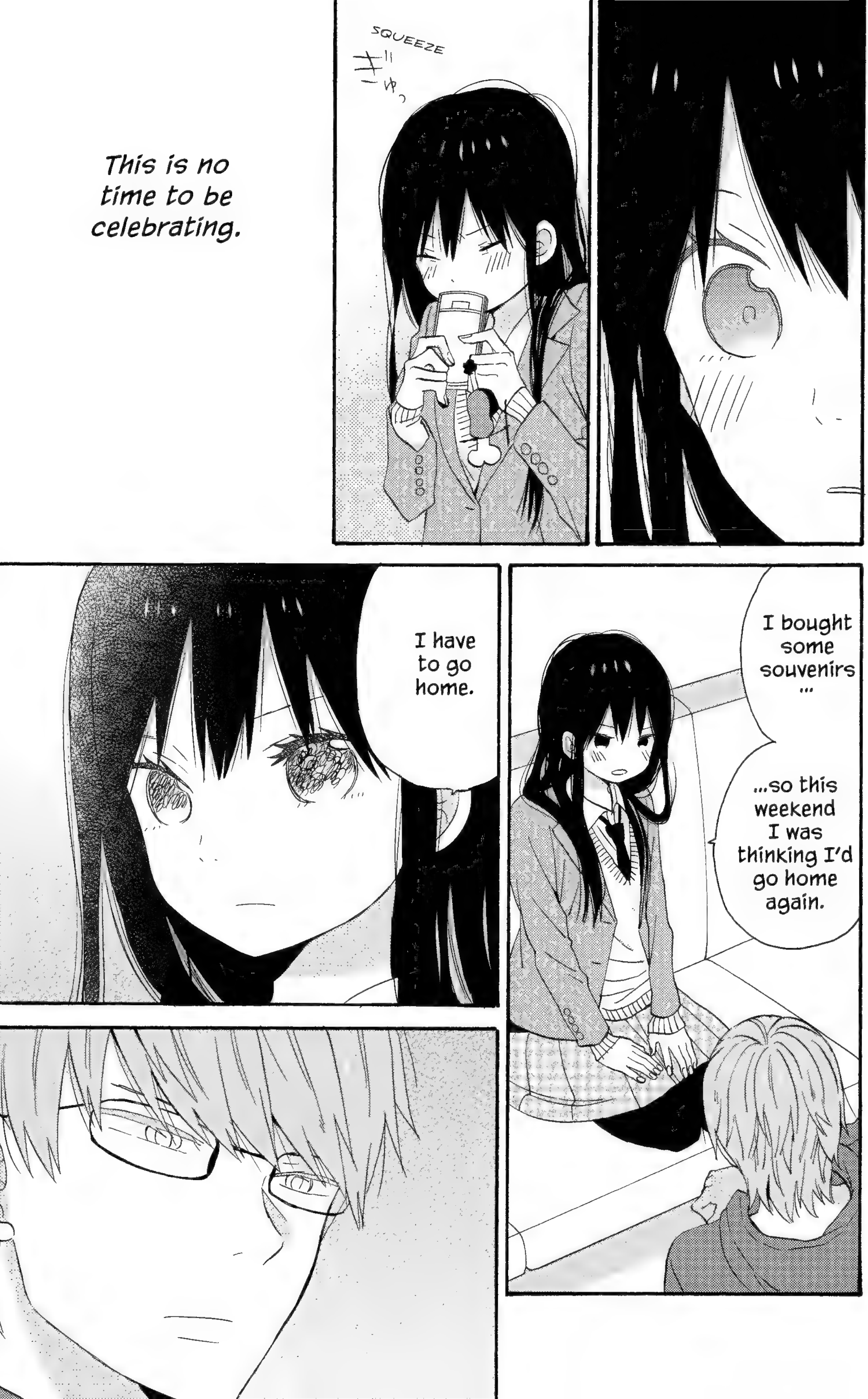

COUGH
SPUTTER
A-are you okay?
What's with that question?
Kind of a skewed thing to ask somebody who's just getting out of the bath, isn't it?
It just suddenly started to bother me.
Like, for instance, have you ever wanted to kiss me?
...
Mao, huh?
I have.
Huhhh?! You savage!
I answered you honestly, and you call me a savage?
S-sorry.

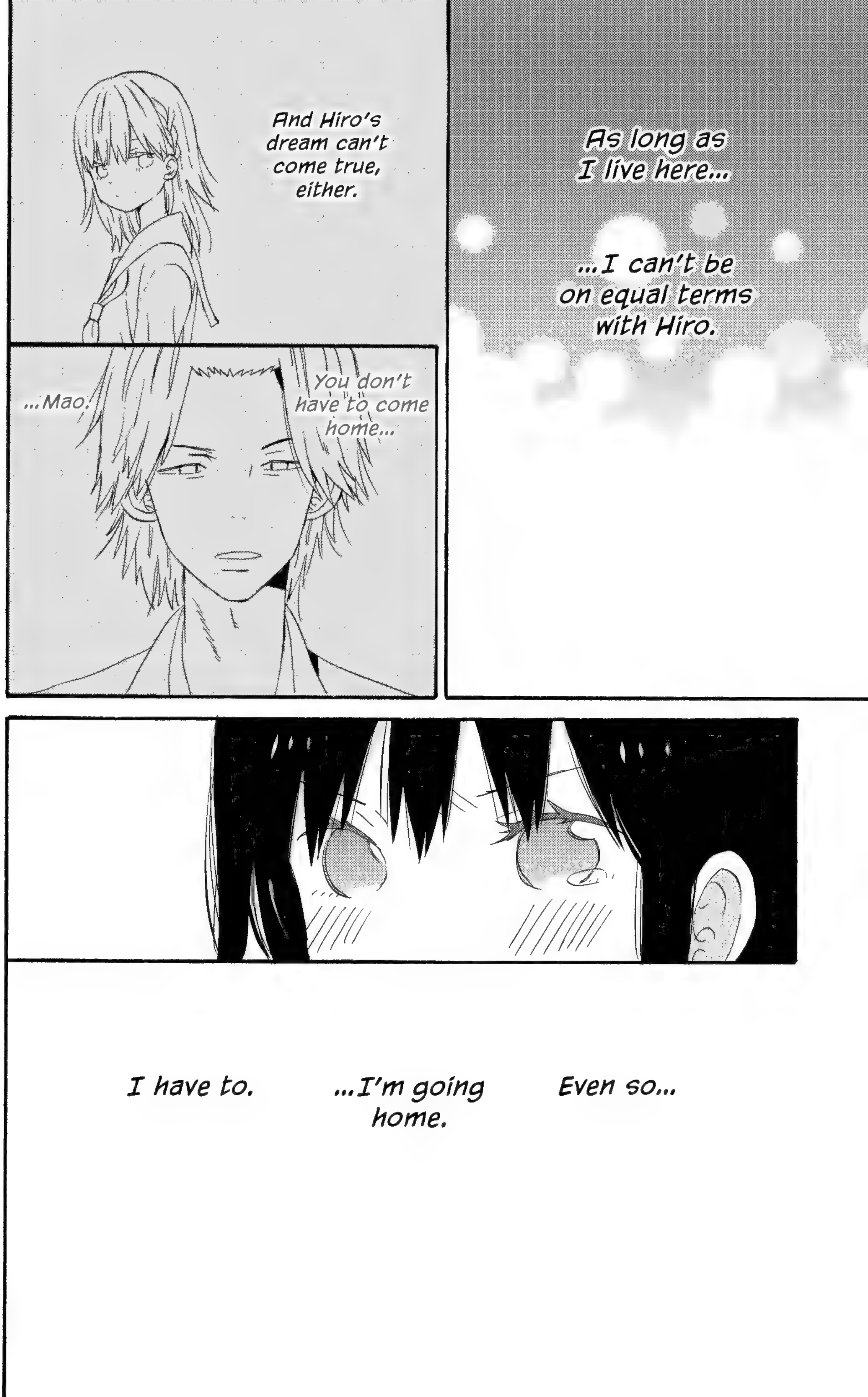

Umm... So I guess that's how it is, though. Men are beasts.
That's just how it is.
Siiigh...
ゴロン
ROLL
I guess that's it...
...
What? Does that mean you were kissed by somebody?
No, I wasn't.
Hmmmm...
You're a savage, Daiki, so don't get any closer to me, all right?!

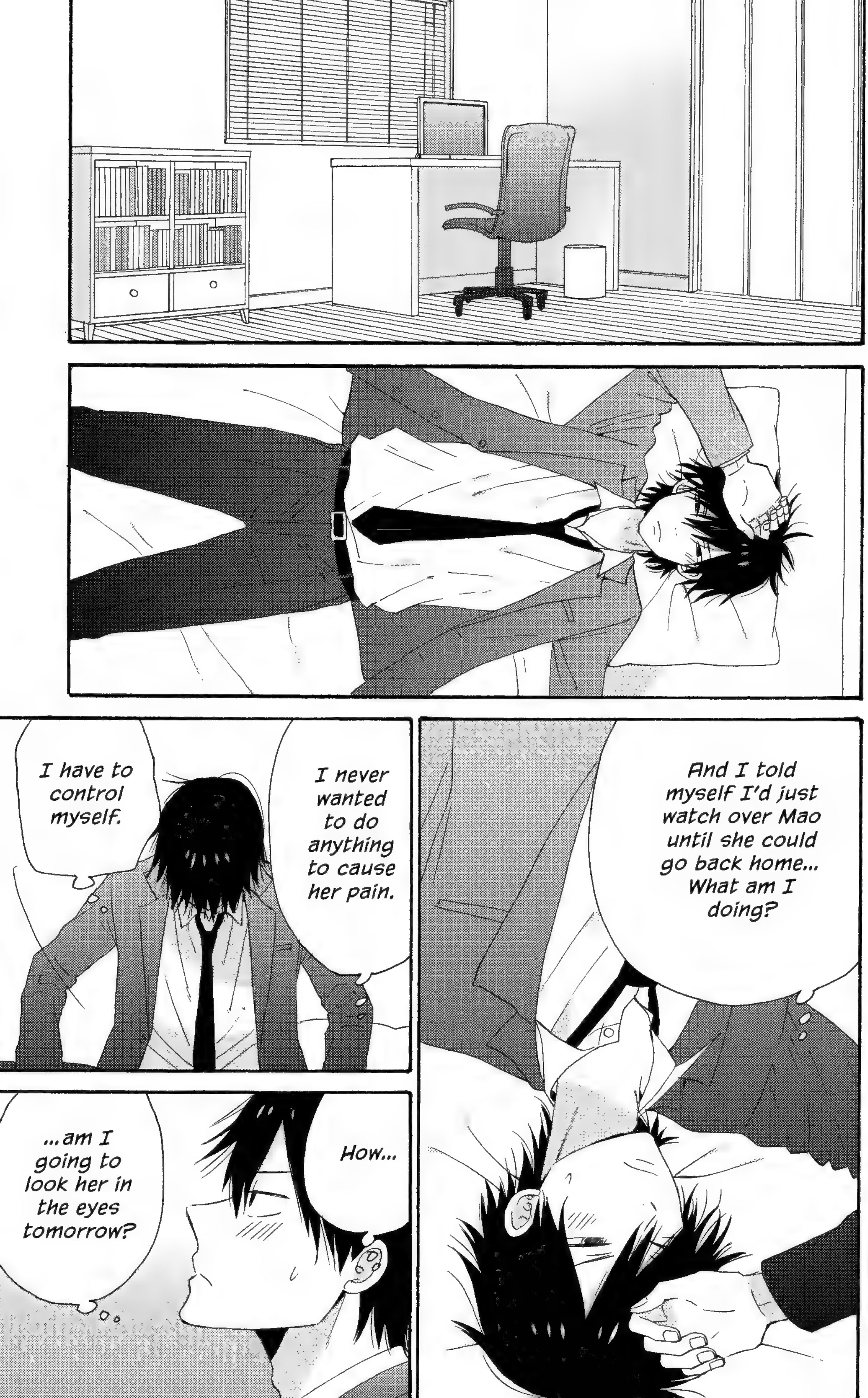

You're so cruel, Mao.
Cut it out with the whole "savage" thing, okay?
Bzzzz
S-sorry, got a text!
From
Subject

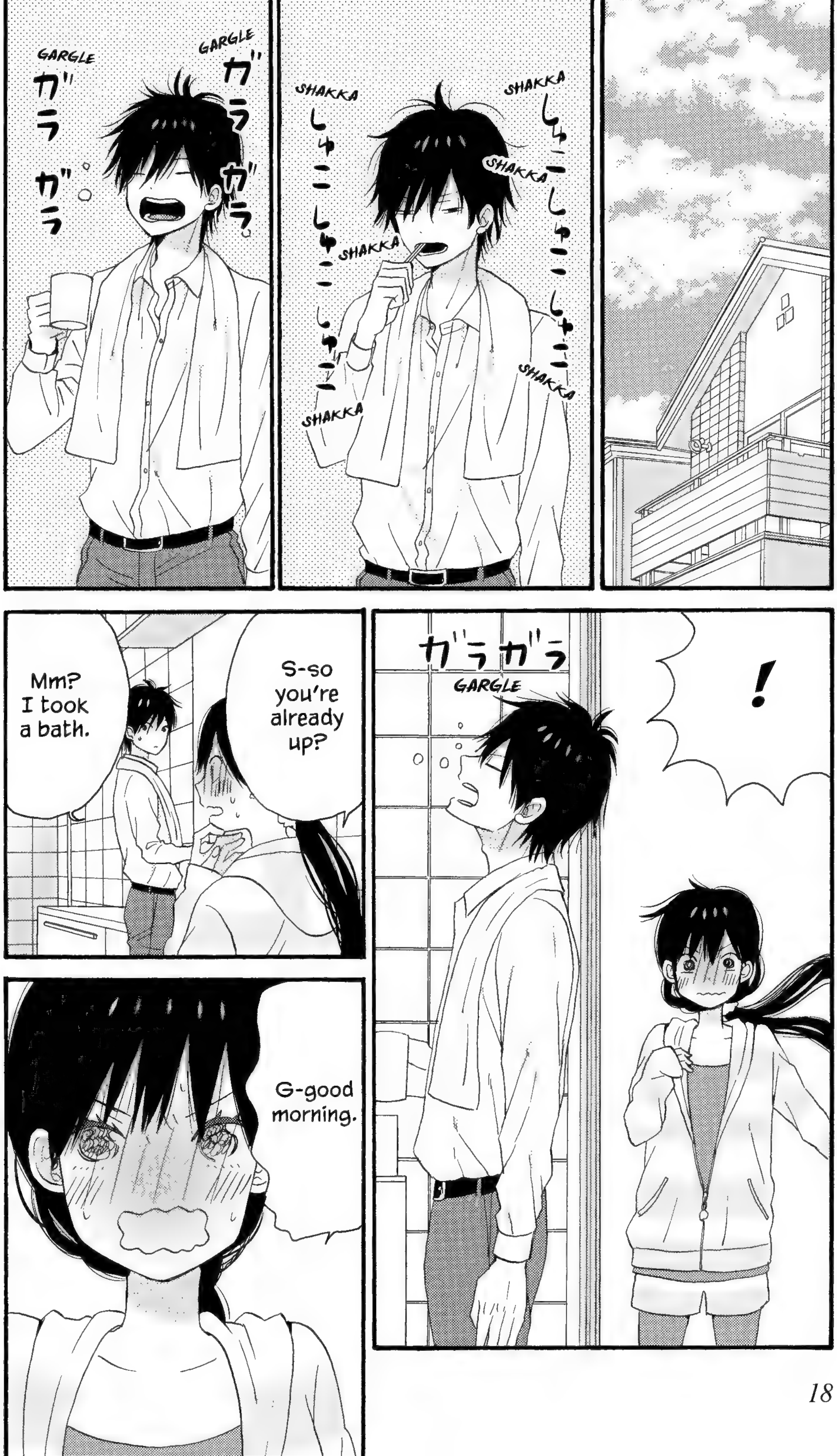
Hina-chan

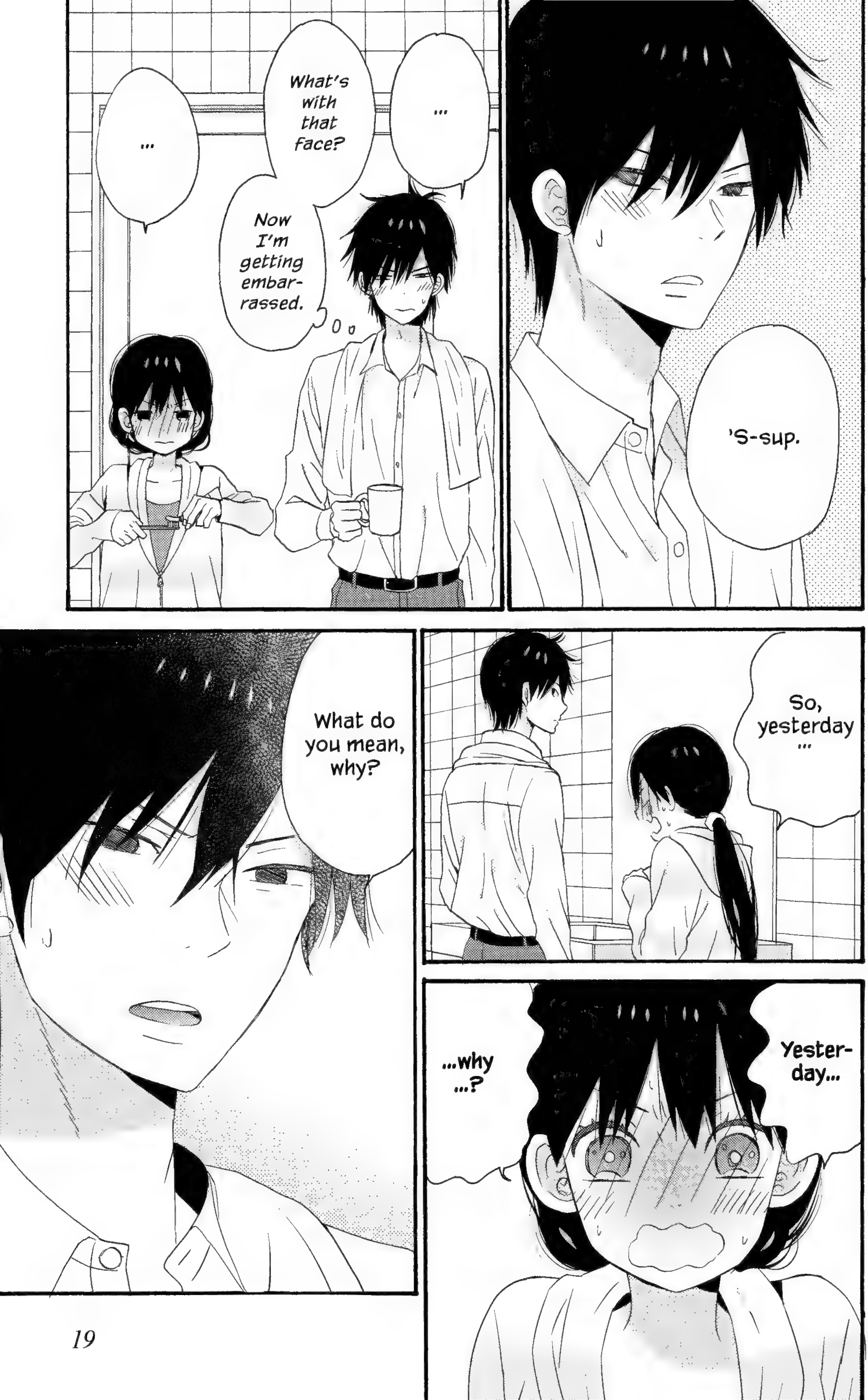
Sounds like you had fun on your school trip. I went to Kansai to see Dai-chan one time.

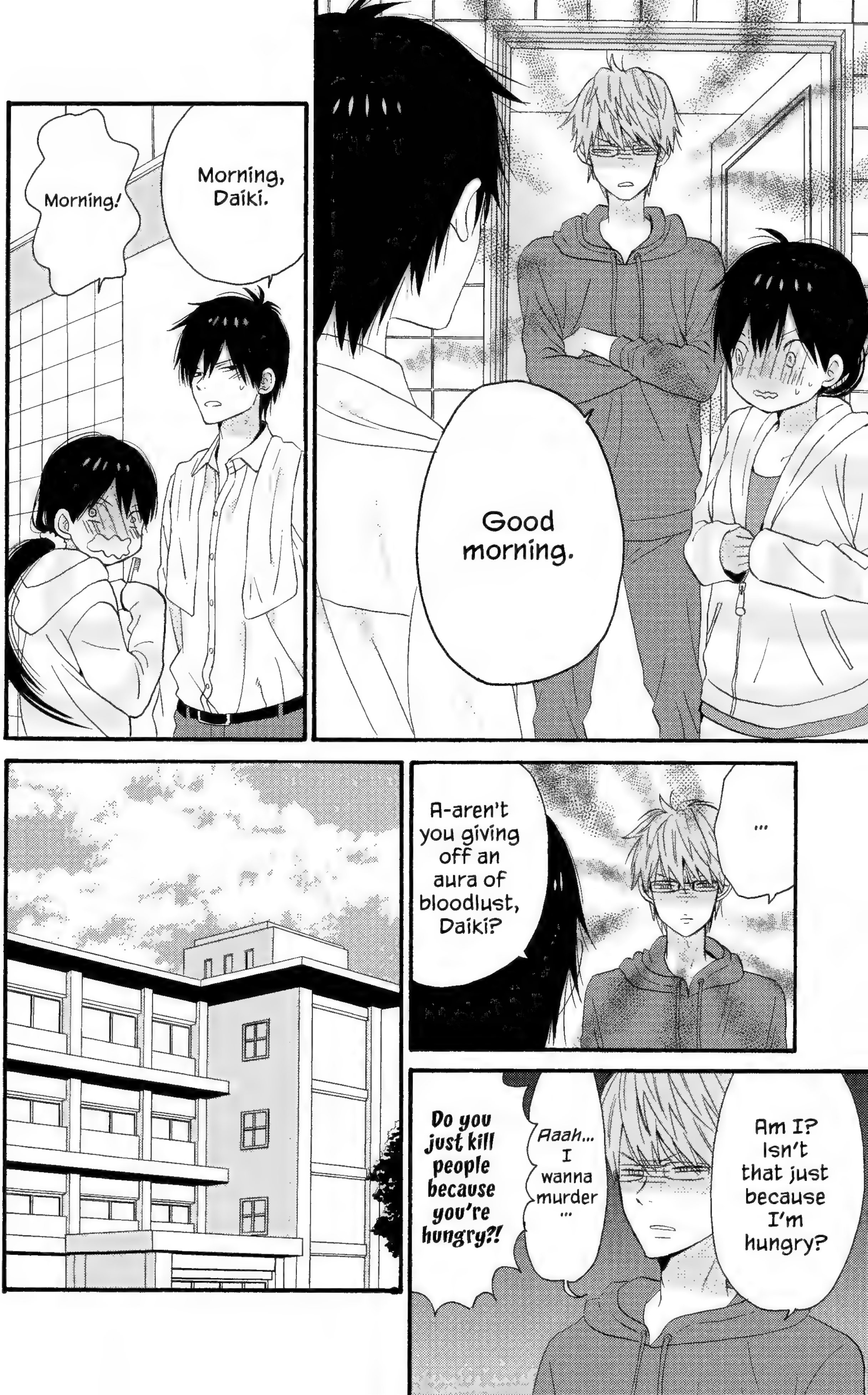

SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ
This is no time to be celebrating.
I bought some souvenirs…
…so this weekend I was thinking I'd go home again.
I have to go home.

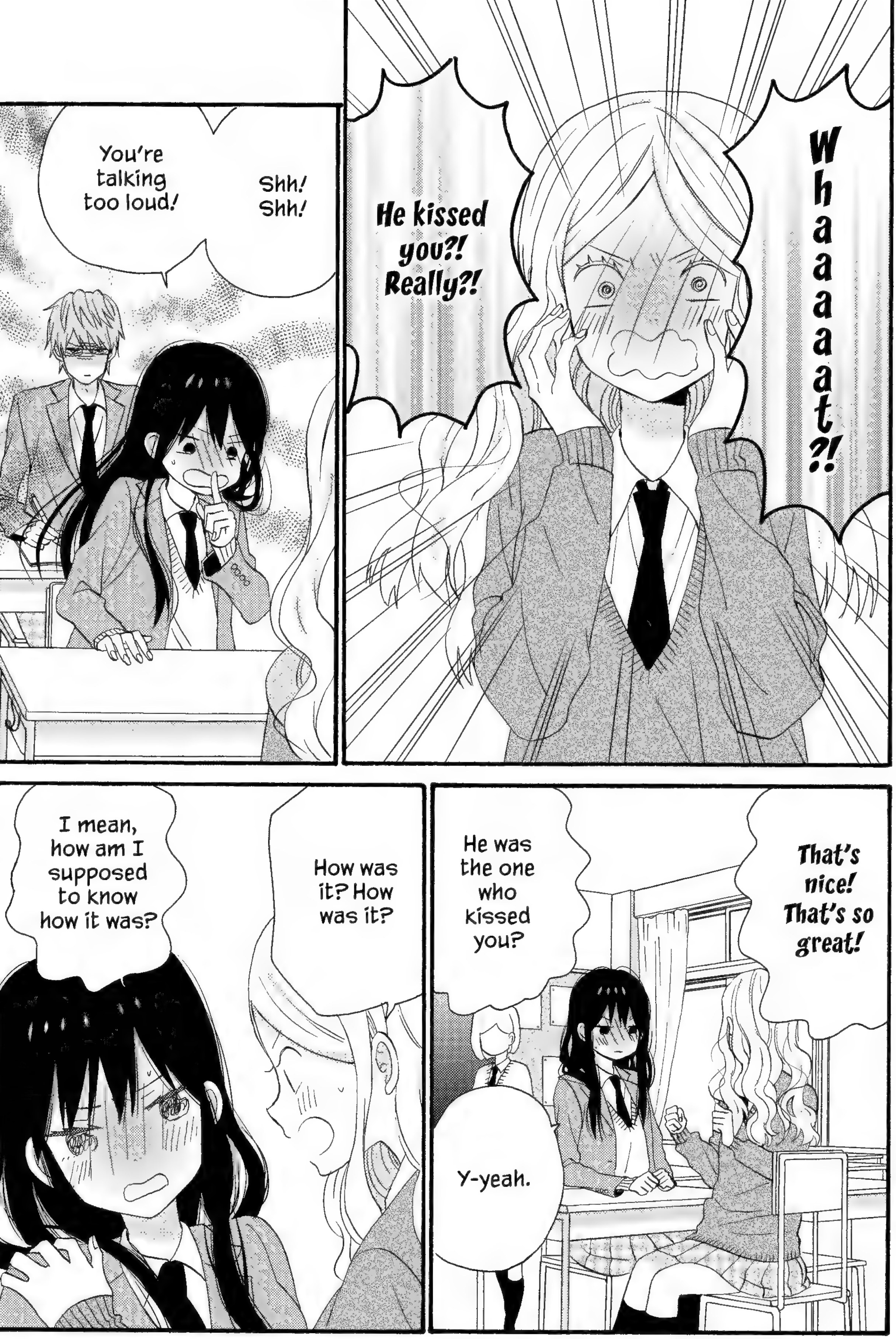

As long as I live here...
...I can't be on equal terms with Hiro.
And Hiro's dream can't come true, either.
You don't have to come home...
...Mao.
Even so...
...I'm going home.
I have to.

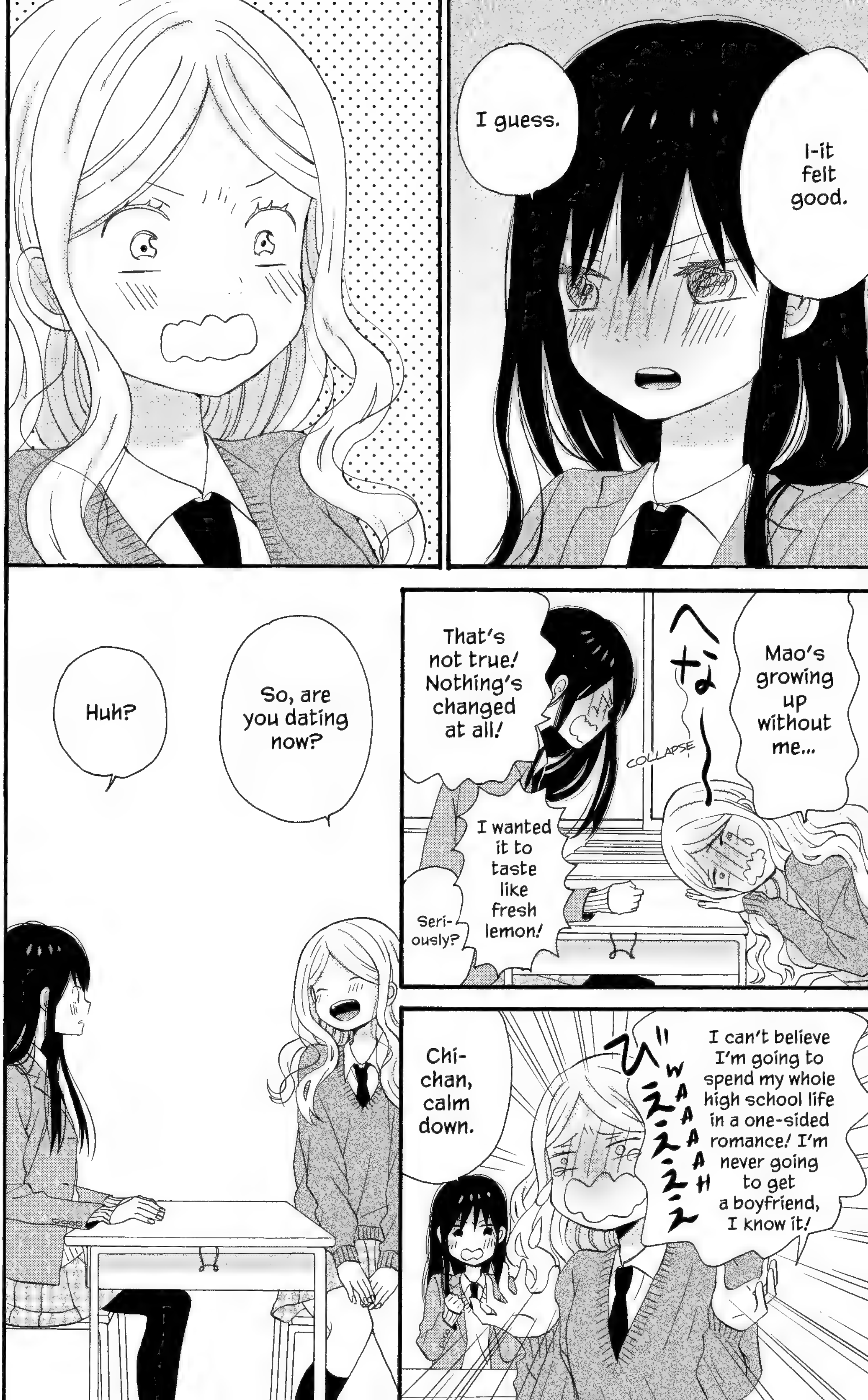

And I told myself I'd just watch over Mao until she could go back home... What am I doing?
I never wanted to do anything to cause her pain.
I have to control myself.
How...
...am I going to look her in the eyes tomorrow?

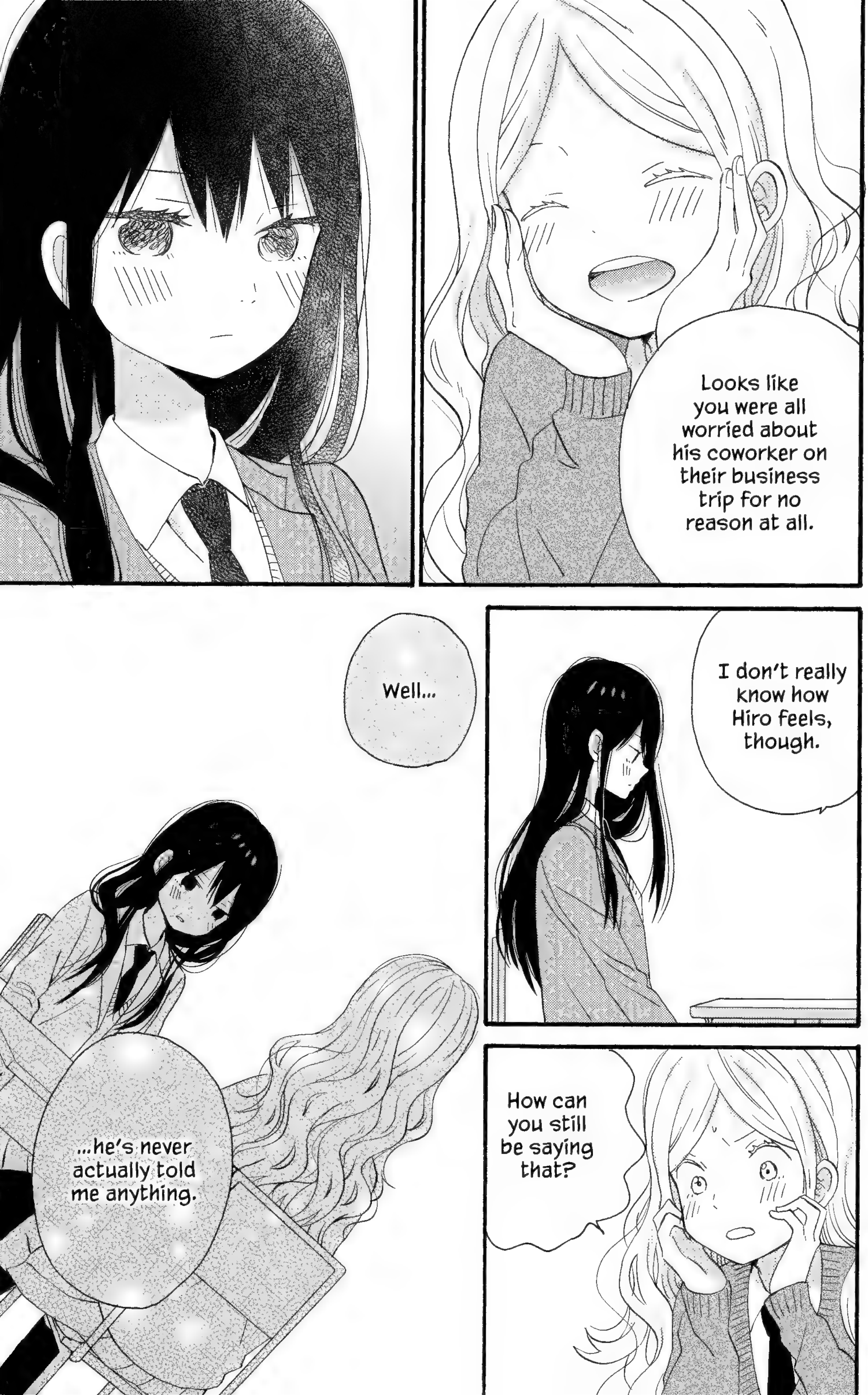

しゃこしゃこ
SHAKKA
SHAKKA
SHAKKA
しゃこしゃこしゃこ
SHAKKA
SHAKKA
ガラガラ
GARGLE
ガラガラ
GARGLE
!
ガラガラ
GARGLE
S-so you're already up?
Mm? I took a bath.
G-good morning.

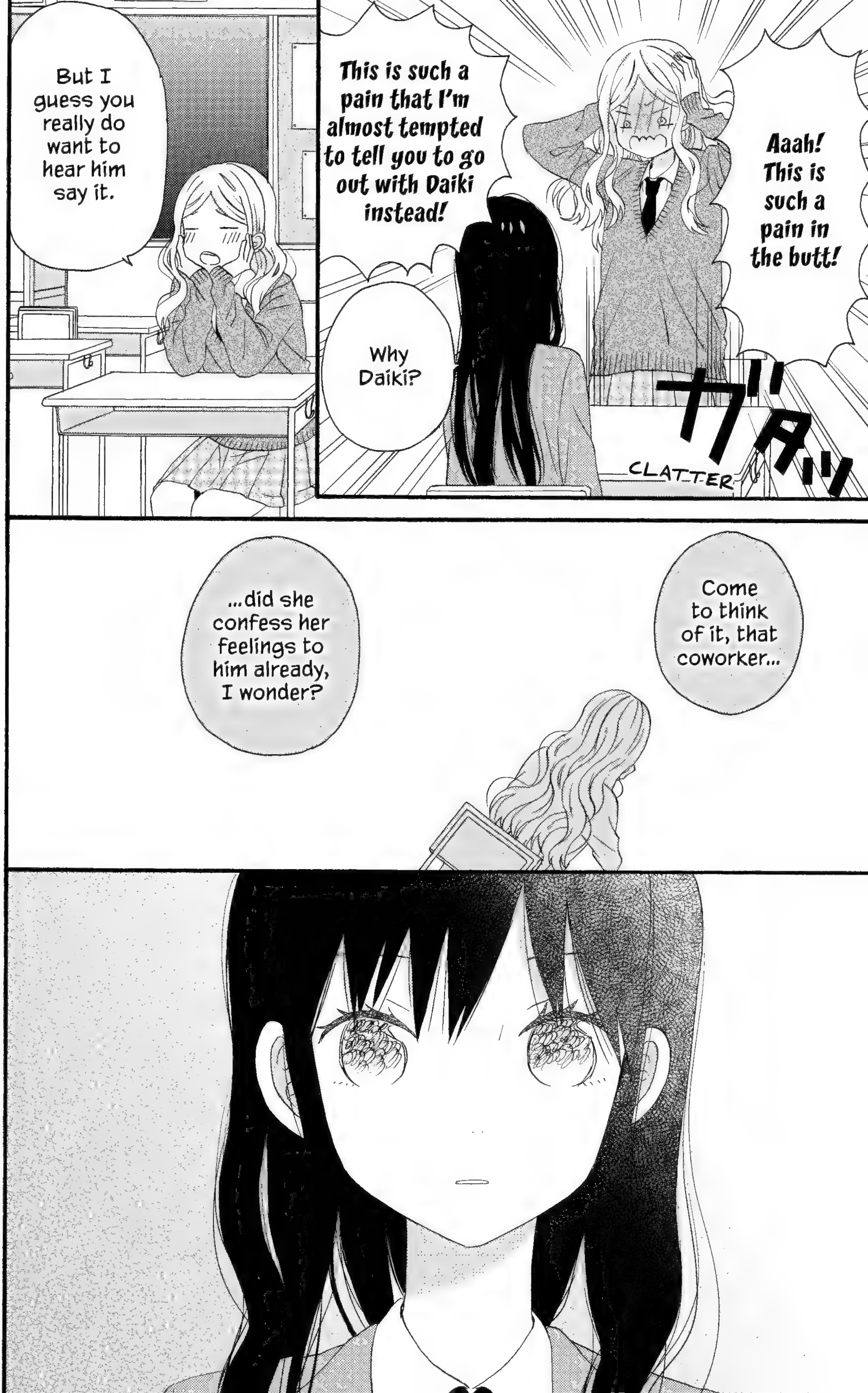

'S-sup.
...
What's with that face?
Now I'm getting embarrassed.
...
So, yesterday...
Yesterday...
...why...?
What do you mean, why?

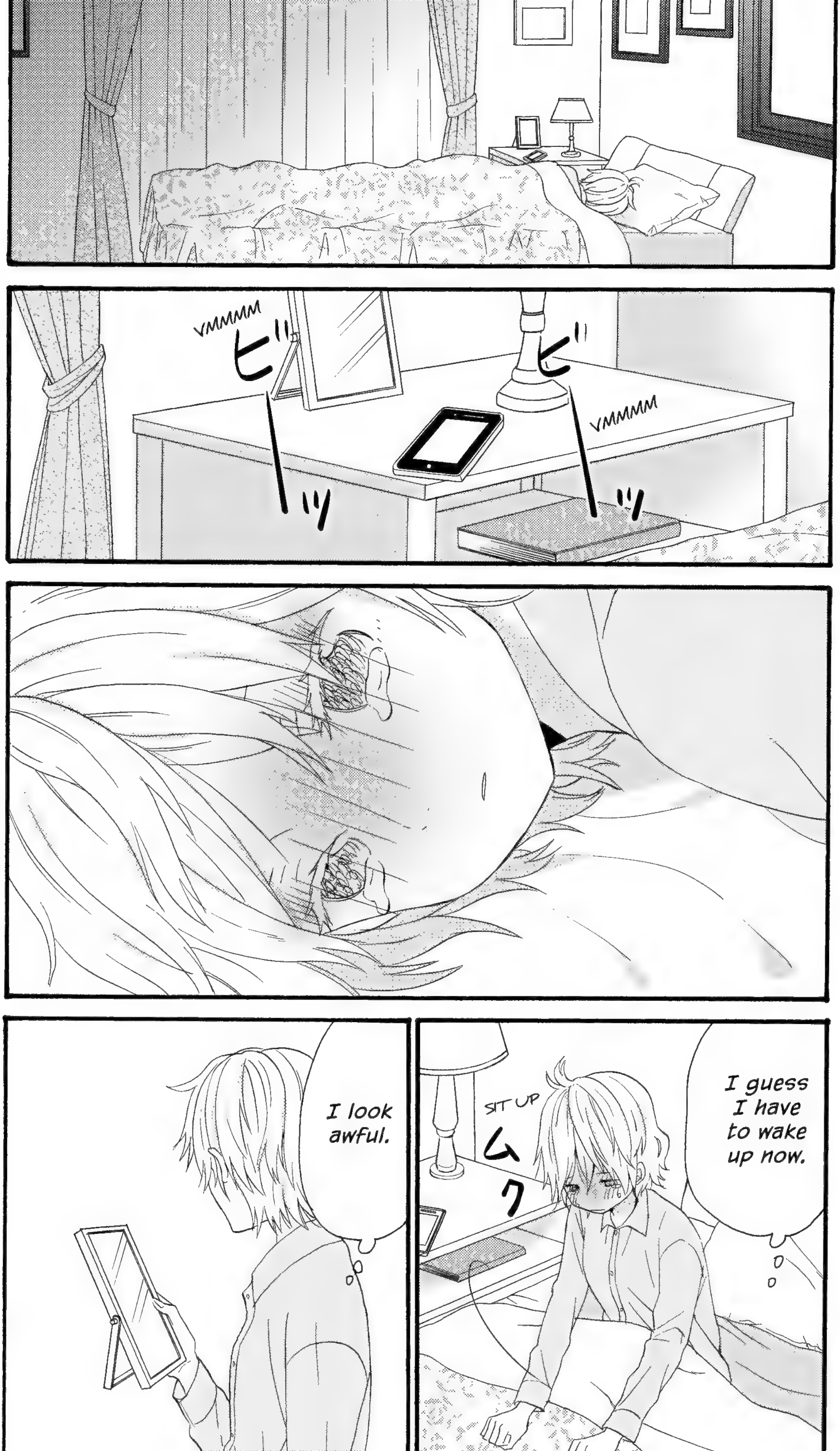

Good morning.
Morning, Daiki.
Morning!
...
A-aren't you giving off an aura of bloodlust, Daiki?
Am I? Isn't that just because I'm hungry?
Aaah... I wanna murder...
Do you just kill people because you're hungry?!

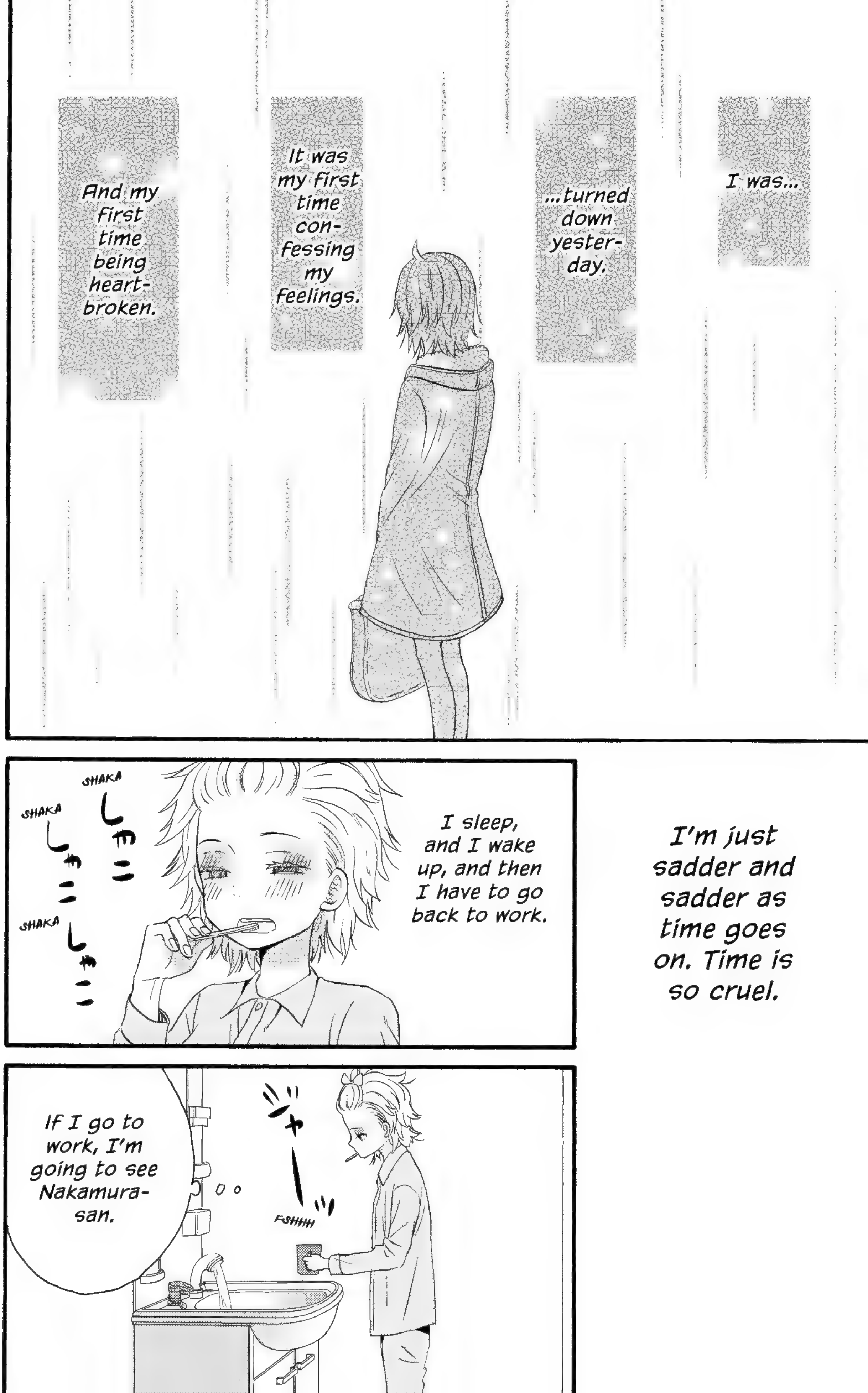

Whaaaaaat?!
He kissed you?! Really?!
Shh! Shh!
You're talking too loud!
That's nice! That's so great!
He was the one who kissed you?
Y-yeah.
How was it? How was it?
I mean, how am I supposed to know how it was?

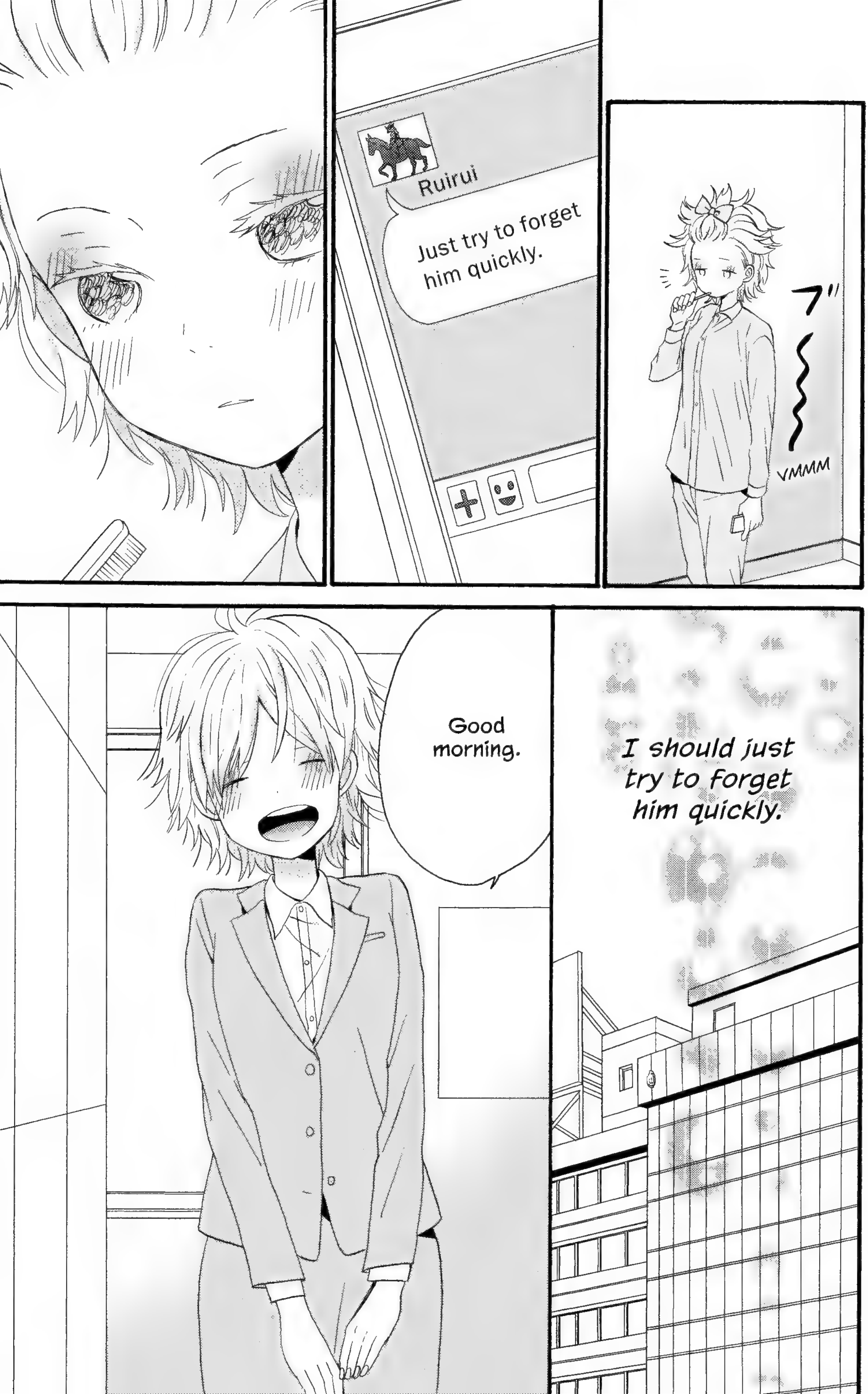

I-it felt good.
I guess.
Mao's growing up without me...
へな～
COLLAPSE
That's not true! Nothing's changed at all!
I wanted it to taste like fresh lemon!
Seriously?
I can't believe I'm going to spend my whole high school life in a one-sided romance! I'm never going to get a boyfriend, I know it!
びえーーー
WAAAAAH
Chi-chan, calm down.
So, are you dating now?
Huh?

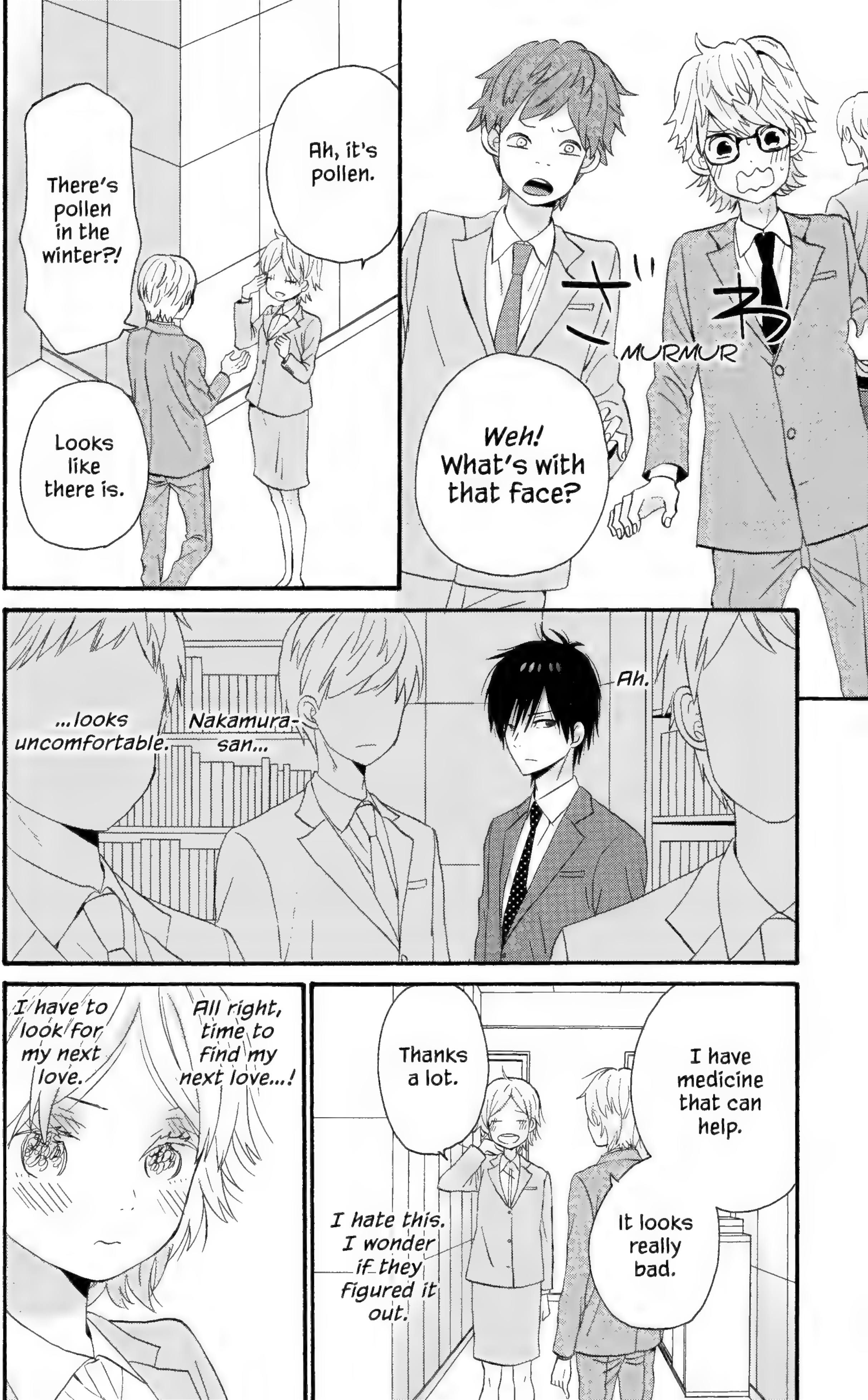

Looks like you were all worried about his coworker on their business trip for no reason at all.
I don't really know how Hiro feels, though.
How can you still be saying that?
Well...
...he's never actually told me anything.

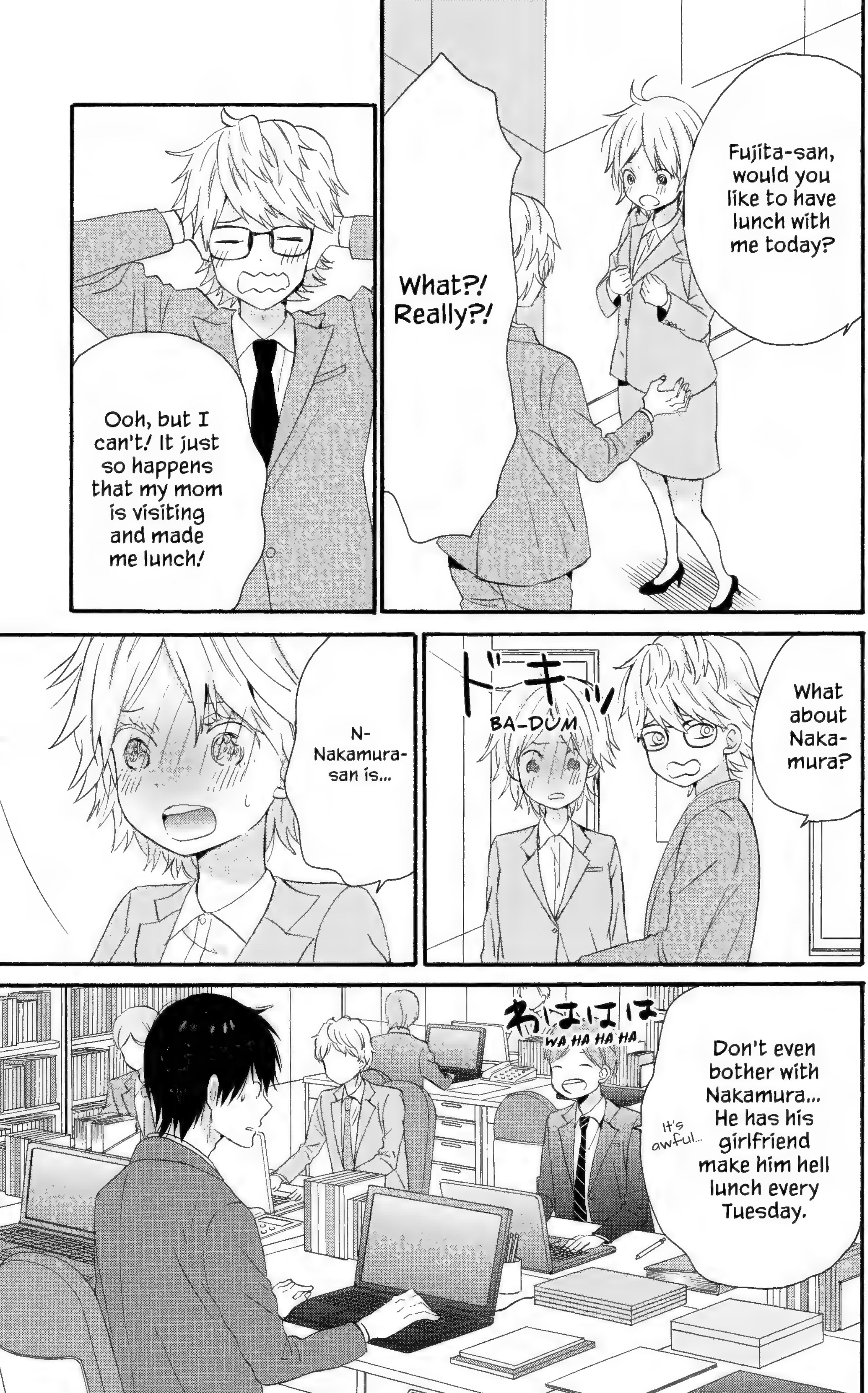

Aaah! This is such a pain in the butt!
This is such a pain that I'm almost tempted to tell you to go out with Daiki instead!
ガタッ
CLATTER
Why Daiki?
But I guess you really do want to hear him say it.
Come to think of it, that coworker...
...did she confess her feelings to him already, I wonder?

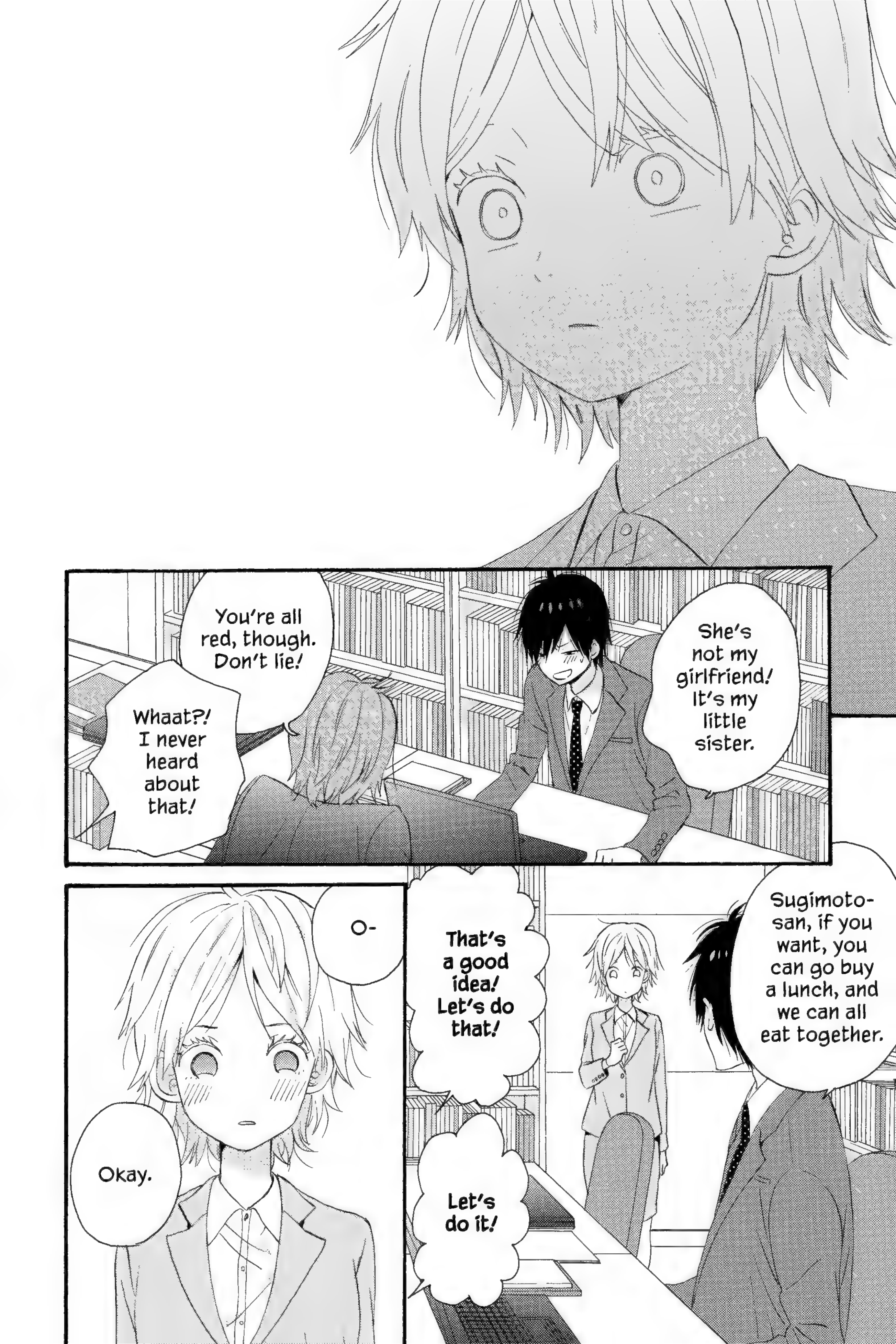

VMMMM
ビーッ
VMMMM
ビーッ
SIT UP
ムク
I guess I have to wake up now.
I look awful.

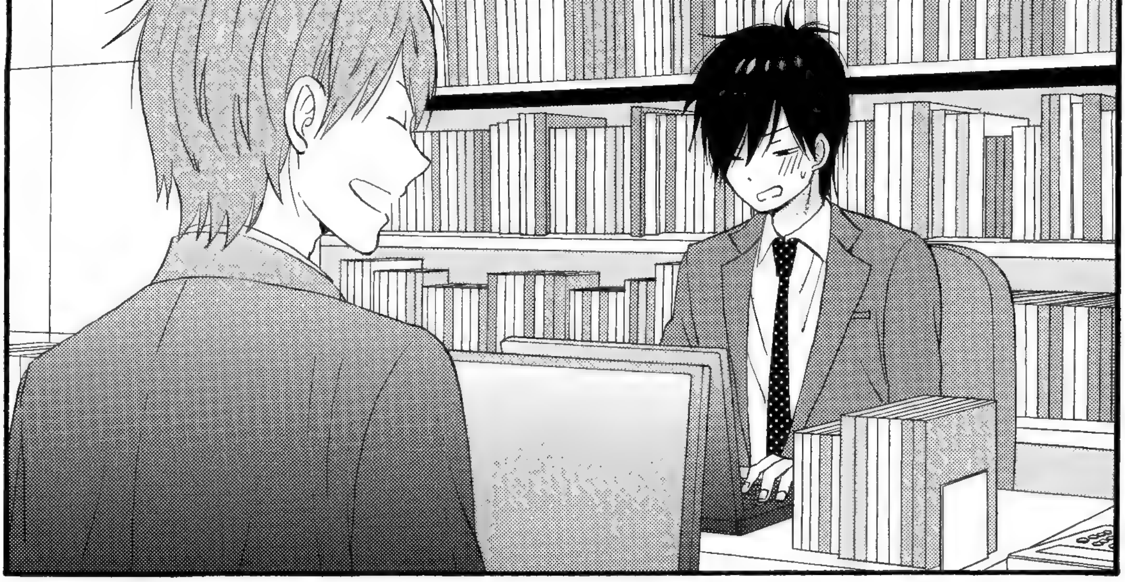

I was...
...turned down yesterday.
It was my first time confessing my feelings.
And my first time being heartbroken.
I'm just sadder and sadder as time goes on. Time is so cruel.
I sleep, and I wake up, and then I have to go back to work.
SHAKA
しゃこ
SHAKA
しゃこ
SHAKA
しゃこ
ジャー
FSHHH
If I go to work, I'm going to see Nakamura-san.


ブ"
VMMM
Ruirui
Just try to forget him quickly.
I should just try to forget him quickly.
Good morning.


Weh! What's with that face?
ざわ
MURMUR
Ah, it's pollen.
There's pollen in the winter?!
Looks like there is.
Ah.
Nakamura-san...
...looks uncomfortable.
I have medicine that can help.
It looks really bad.
Thanks a lot.
I hate this. I wonder if they figured it out.
All right, time to find my next love...!
I have to look for my next love.


Fujita-san, would you like to have lunch with me today?
What?! Really?!
Ooh, but I can't! It just so happens that my mom is visiting and made me lunch!
ドキッ
BA-DUM
What about Nakamura?
N-Nakamura-san is...
わははは
WA HA HA HA
Don't even bother with Nakamura... He has his girlfriend make him hell lunch every Tuesday.
It's awful...

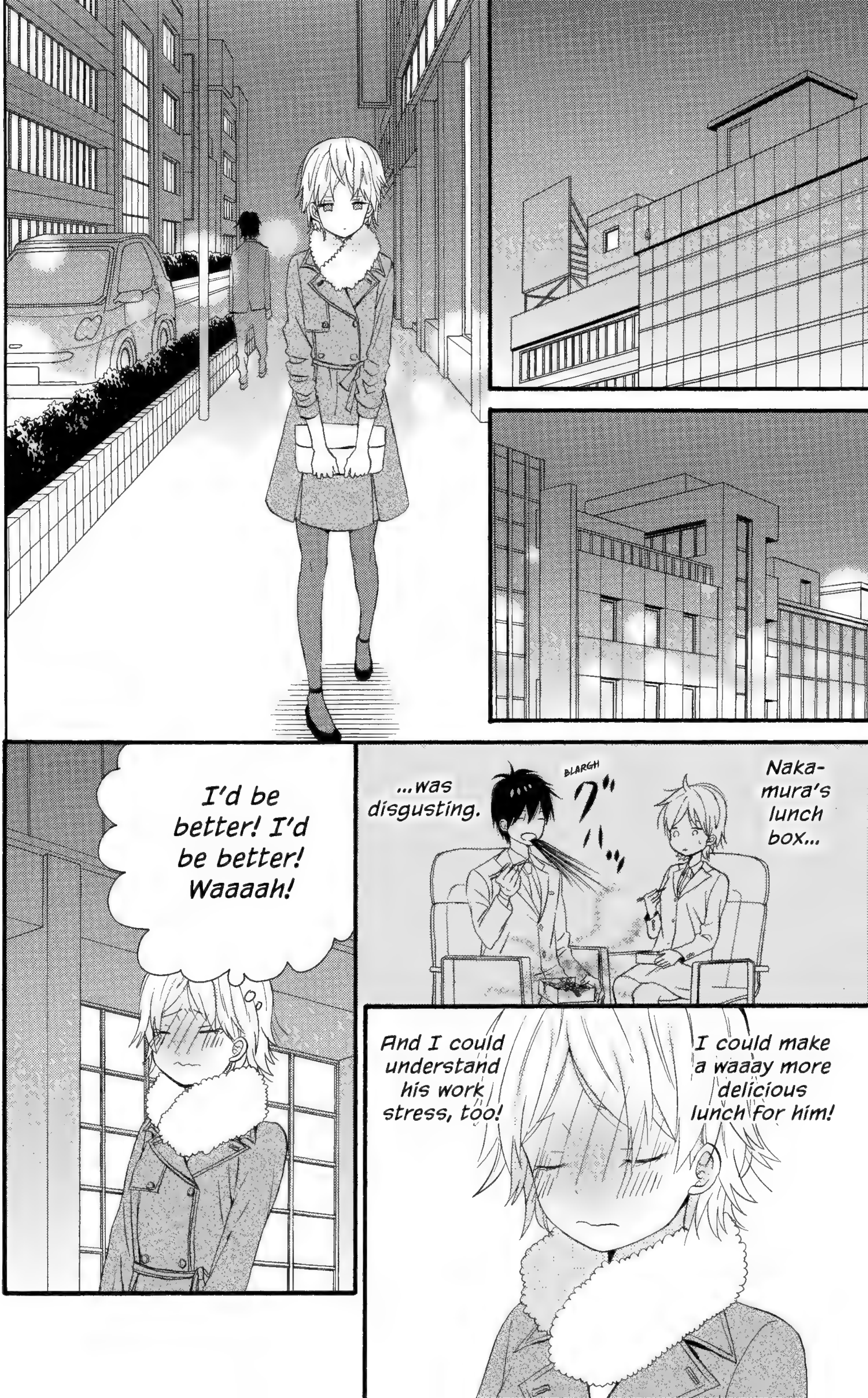

She's not my girlfriend! It's my little sister.
You're all red, though. Don't lie!
Whaat?! I never heard about that!
Sugimoto-san, if you want, you can go buy a lunch, and we can all eat together.
That's a good idea! Let's do that!
Let's do it!
O-
Okay.

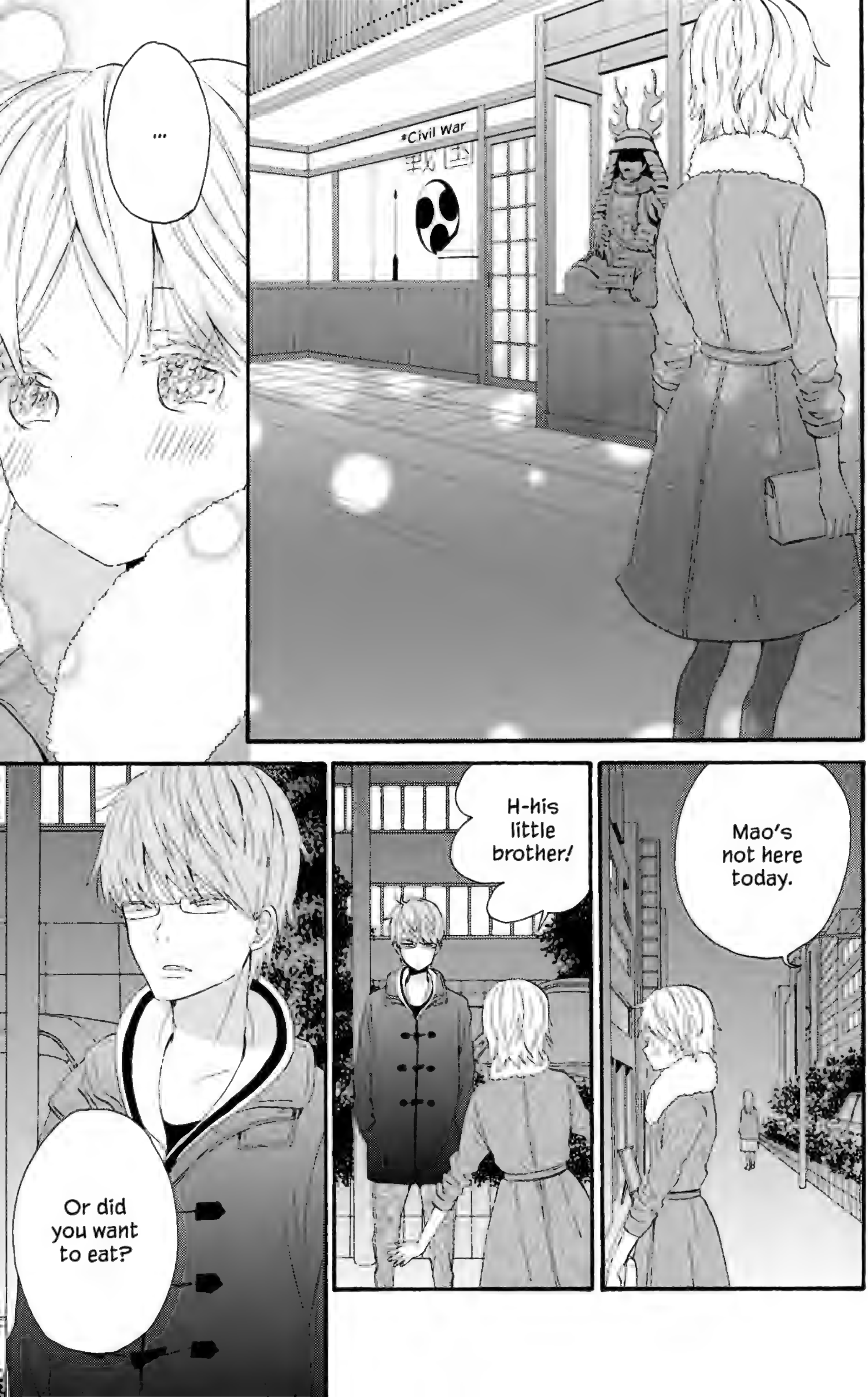


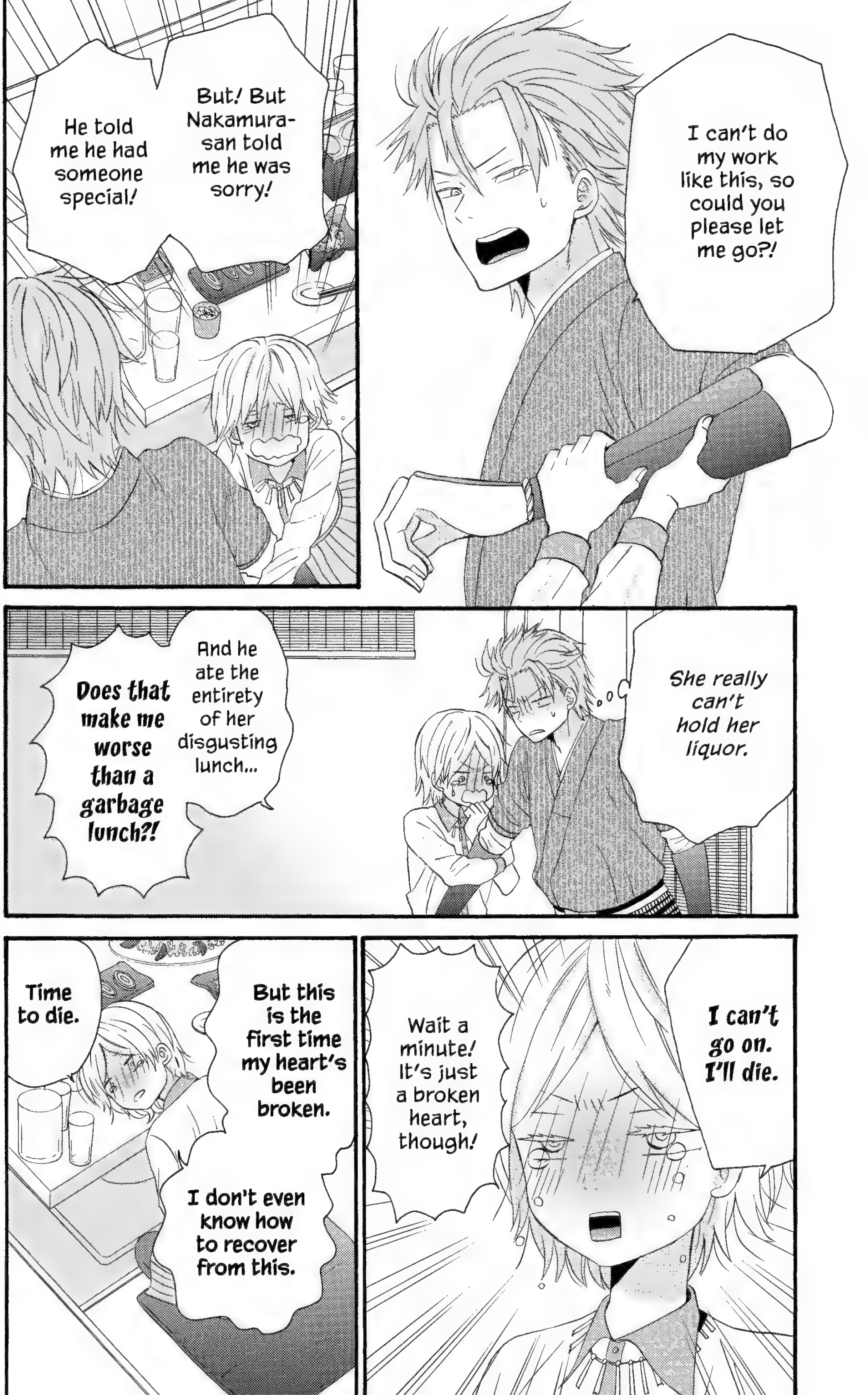
How do I fall in love with somebody else?

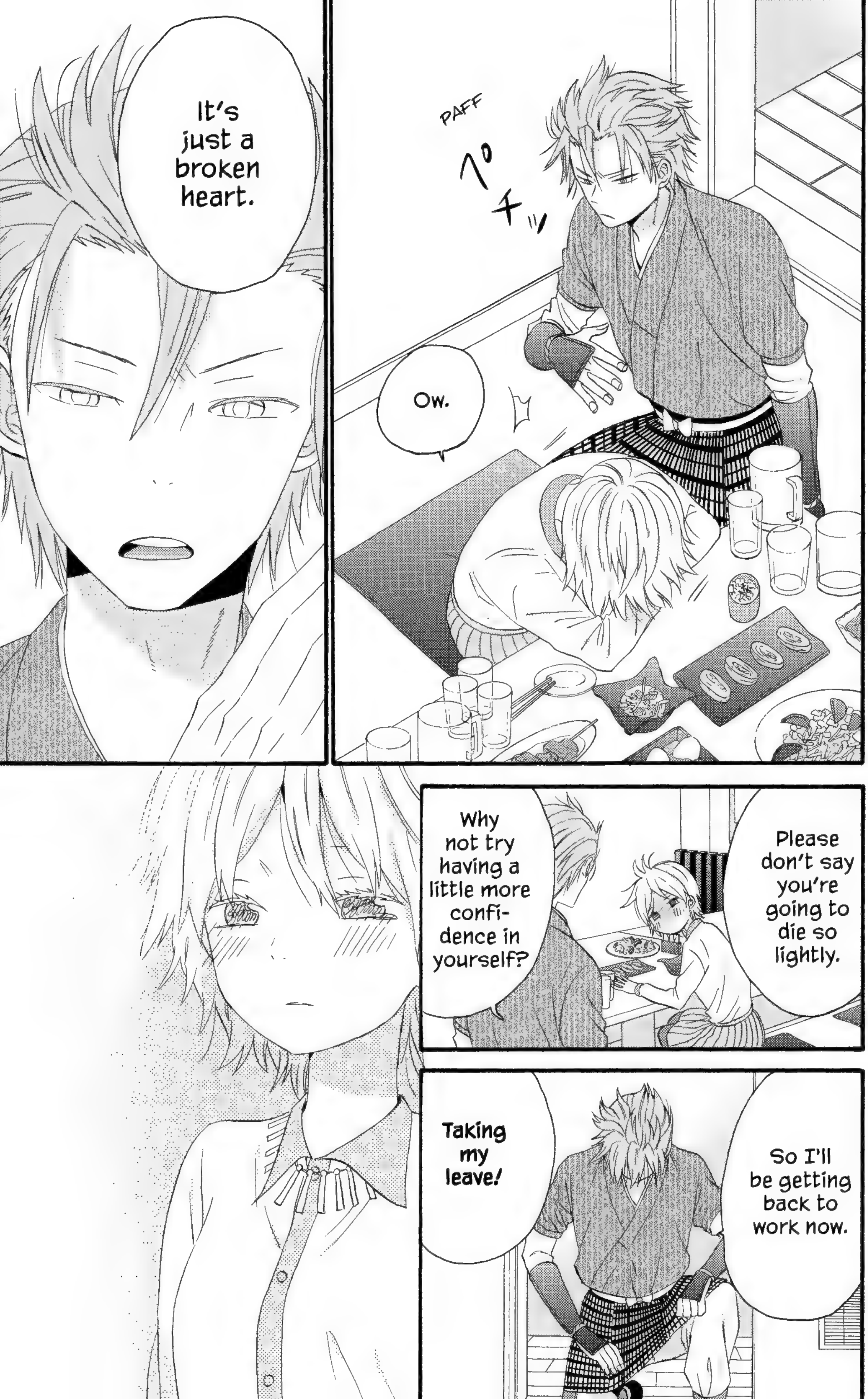
I'm going crazy with jealousy even now!

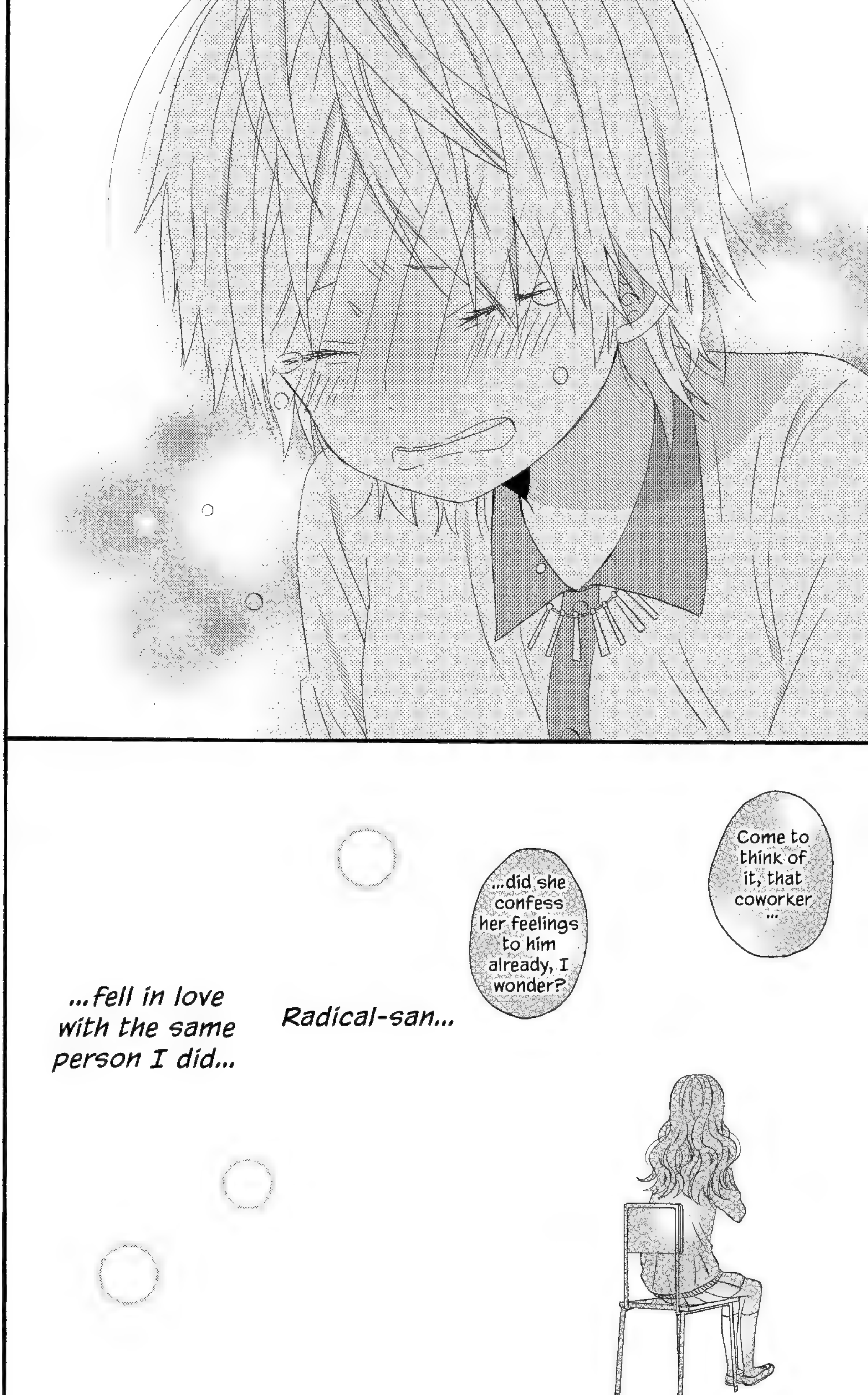
How do I forget him?!

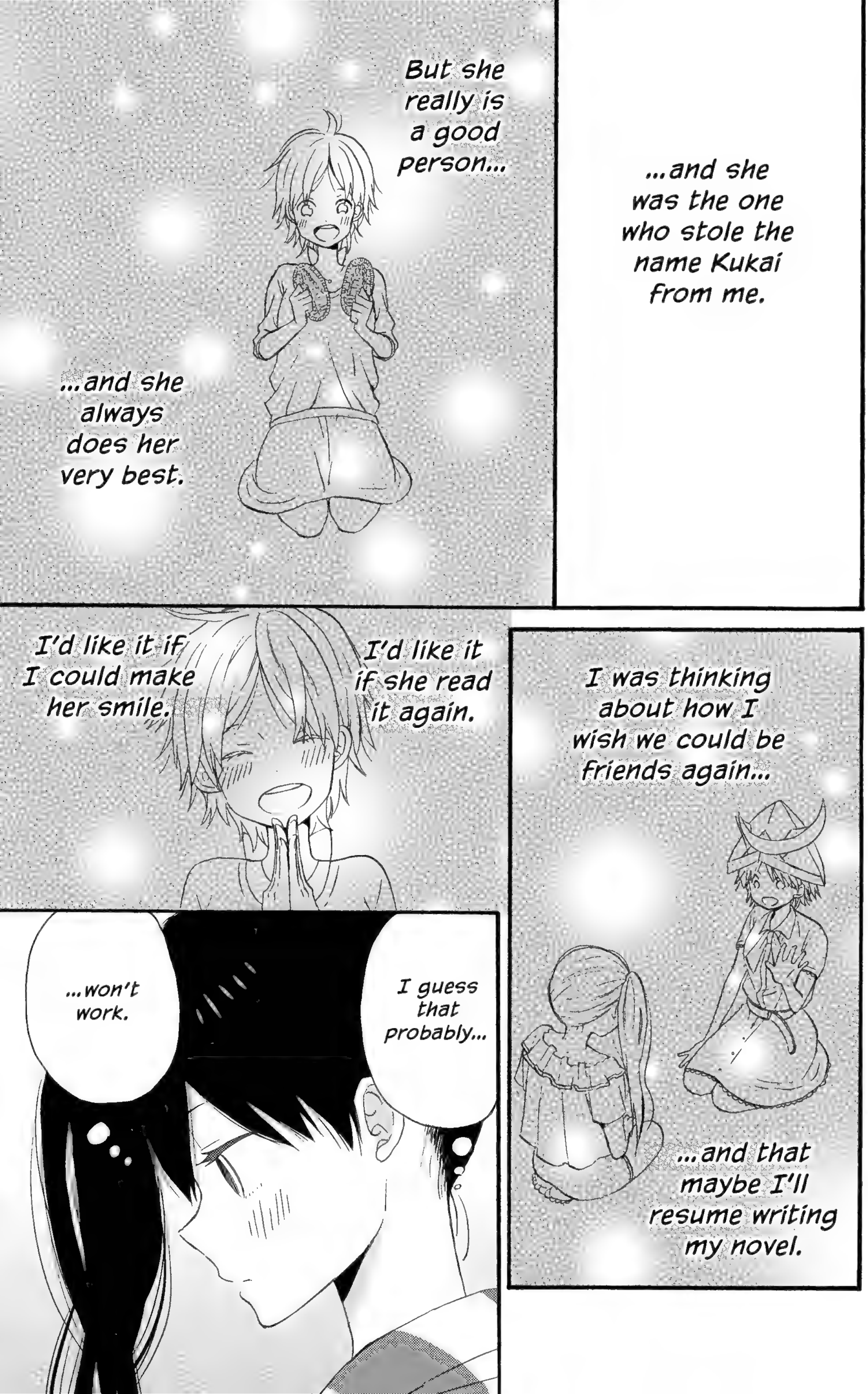

Naka-mura's lunch box...
BLARGH
...was disgusting.
I could make a waaay more delicious lunch for him!
And I could understand his work stress, too!
I'd be better! I'd be better! Waaaah!

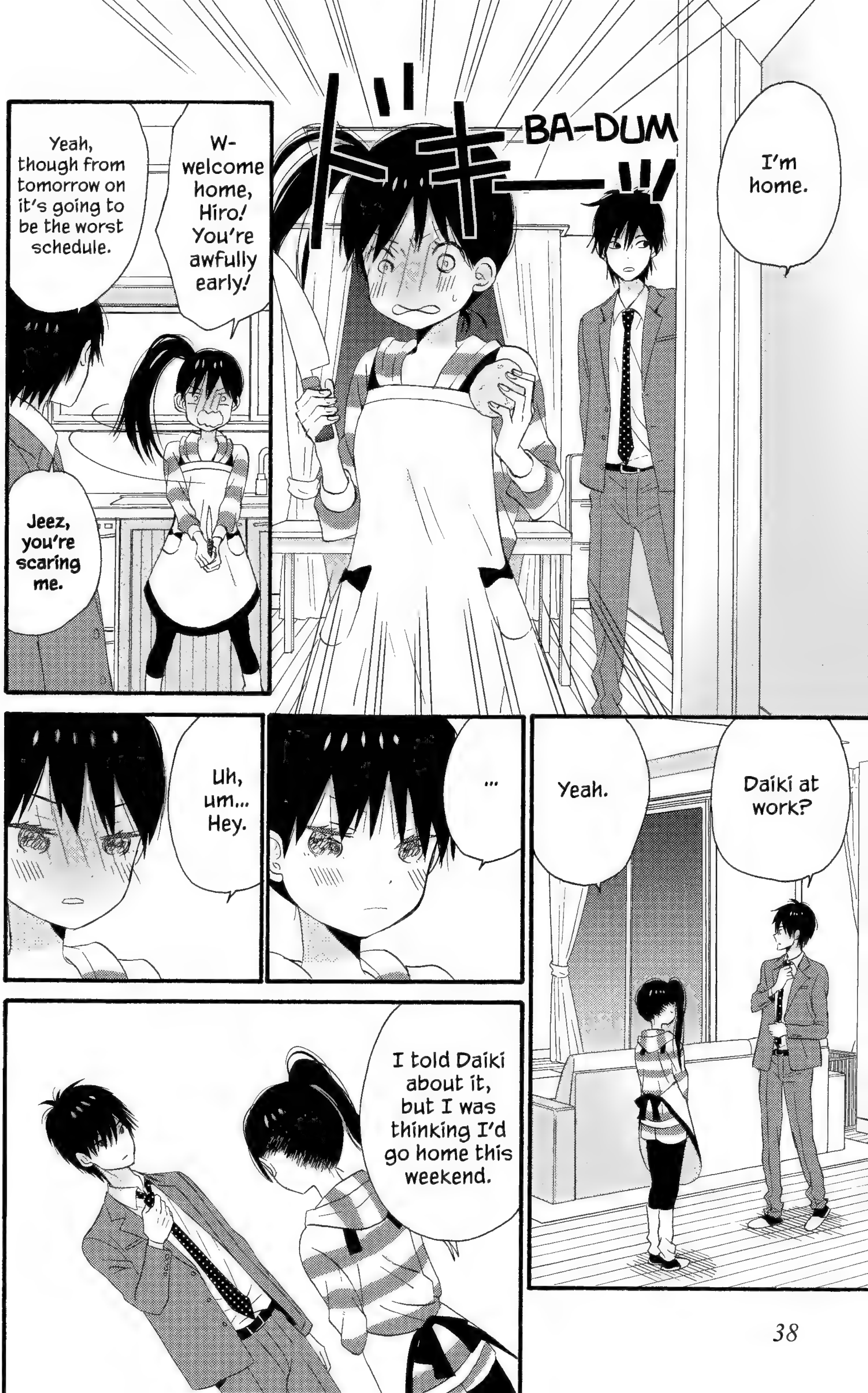

*Civil War
...
Mao's not here today.
H-his little brother!
Or did you want to eat?

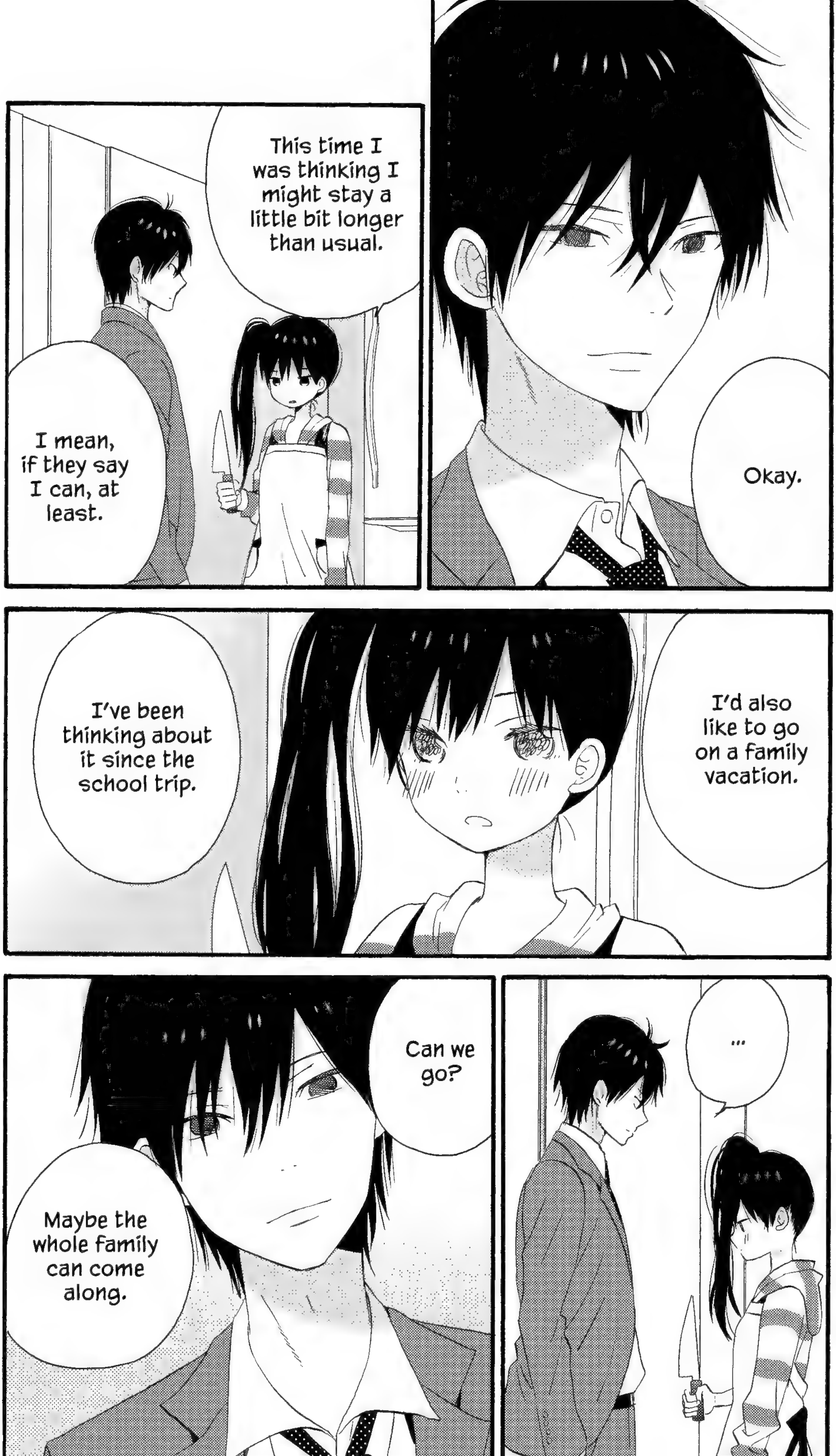

I can't do my work like this, so could you please let me go?!
But! But Nakamura-san told me he was sorry!
He told me he had someone special!
She really can't hold her liquor.
And he ate the entirety of her disgusting lunch...
Does that make me worse than a garbage lunch?!
I can't go on. I'll die.
Wait a minute! It's just a broken heart, though!
But this is the first time my heart's been broken.
I don't even know how to recover from this.
Time to die.

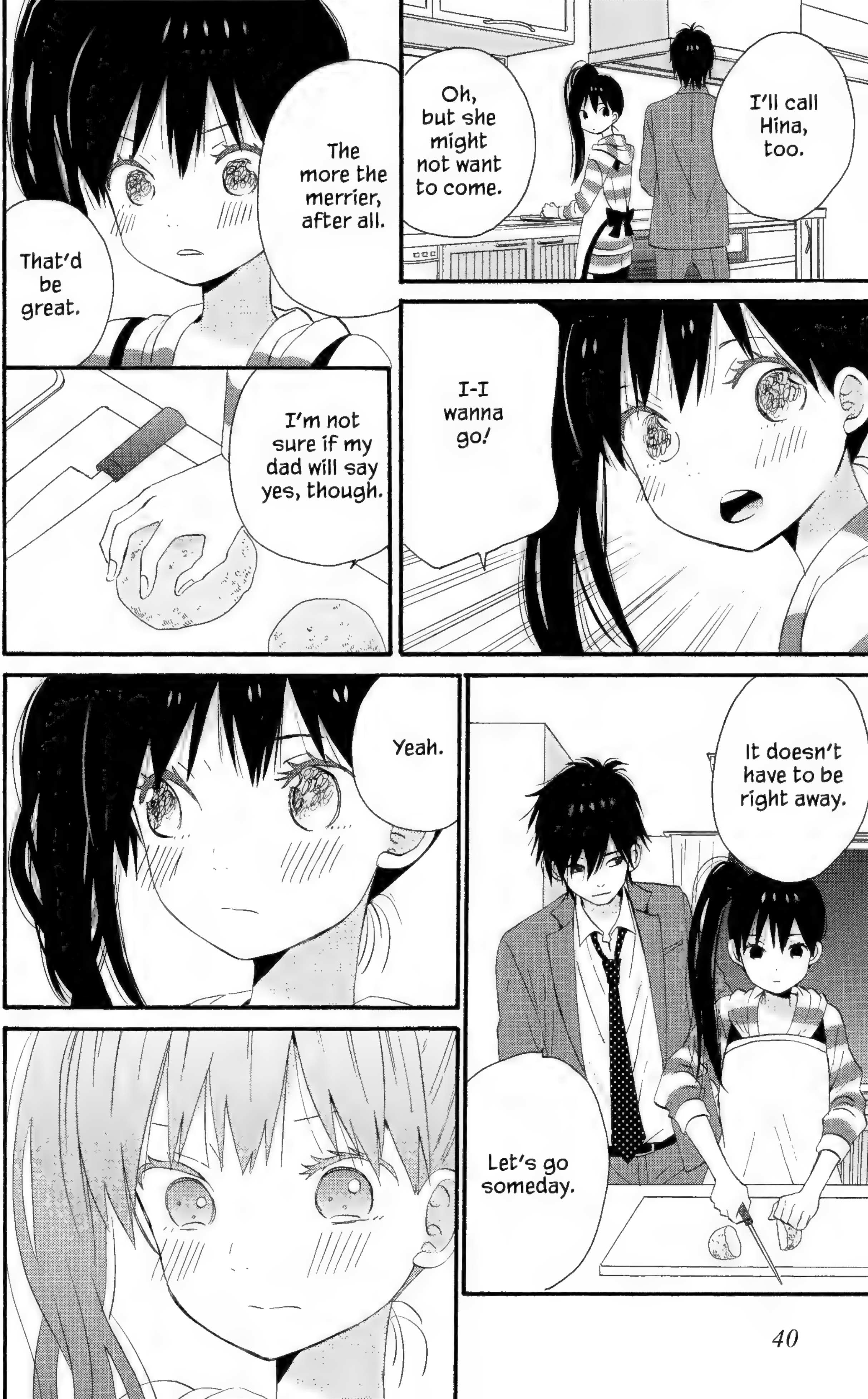

PAFF
ペチッ
Ow.
It's just a broken heart.
Please don't say you're going to die so lightly.
Why not try having a little more confidence in yourself?
So I'll be getting back to work now.
Taking my leave!

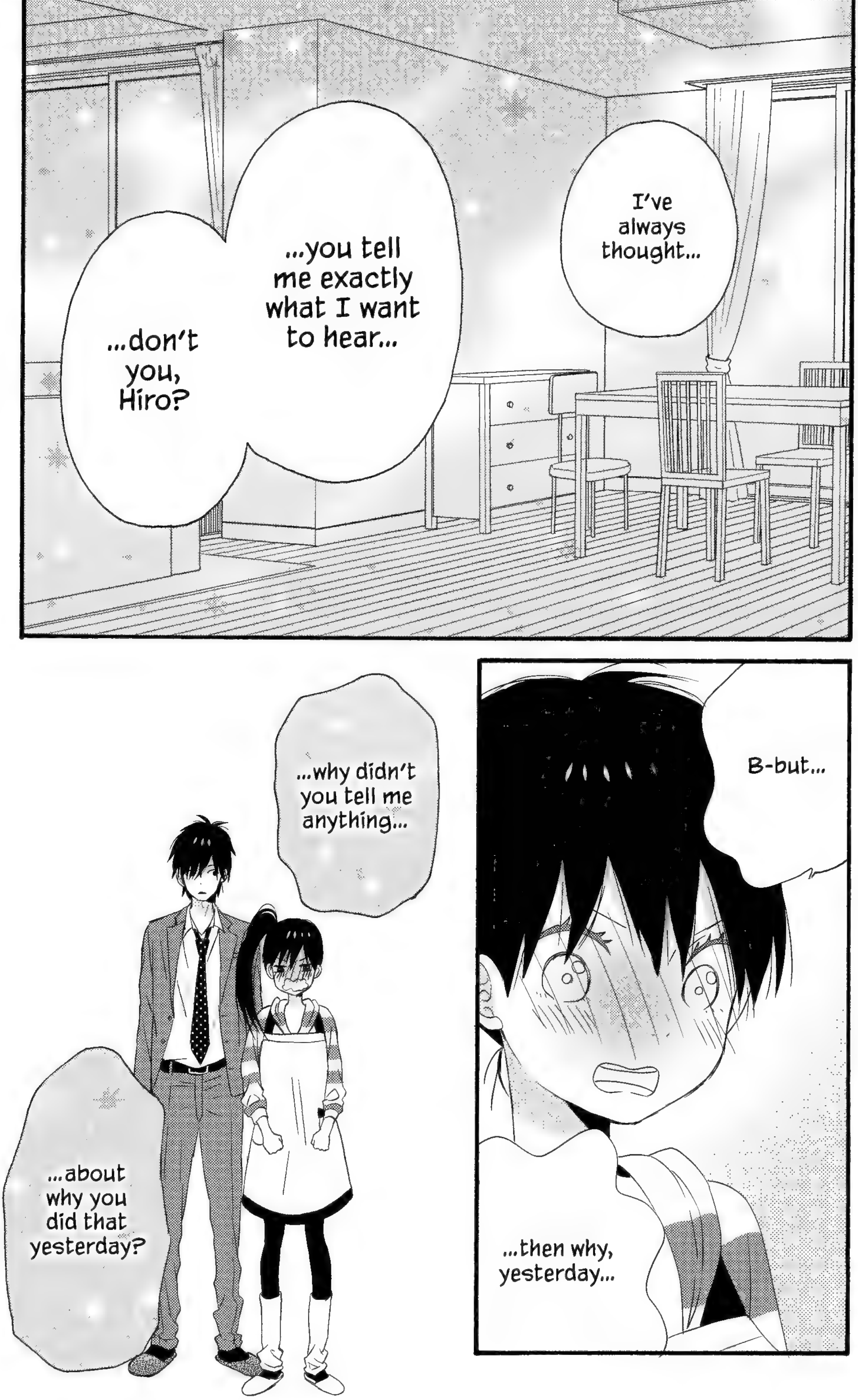

Come to think of it, that coworker ...
...did she confess her feelings to him already, I wonder?
Radical-san...
...fell in love with the same person I did...

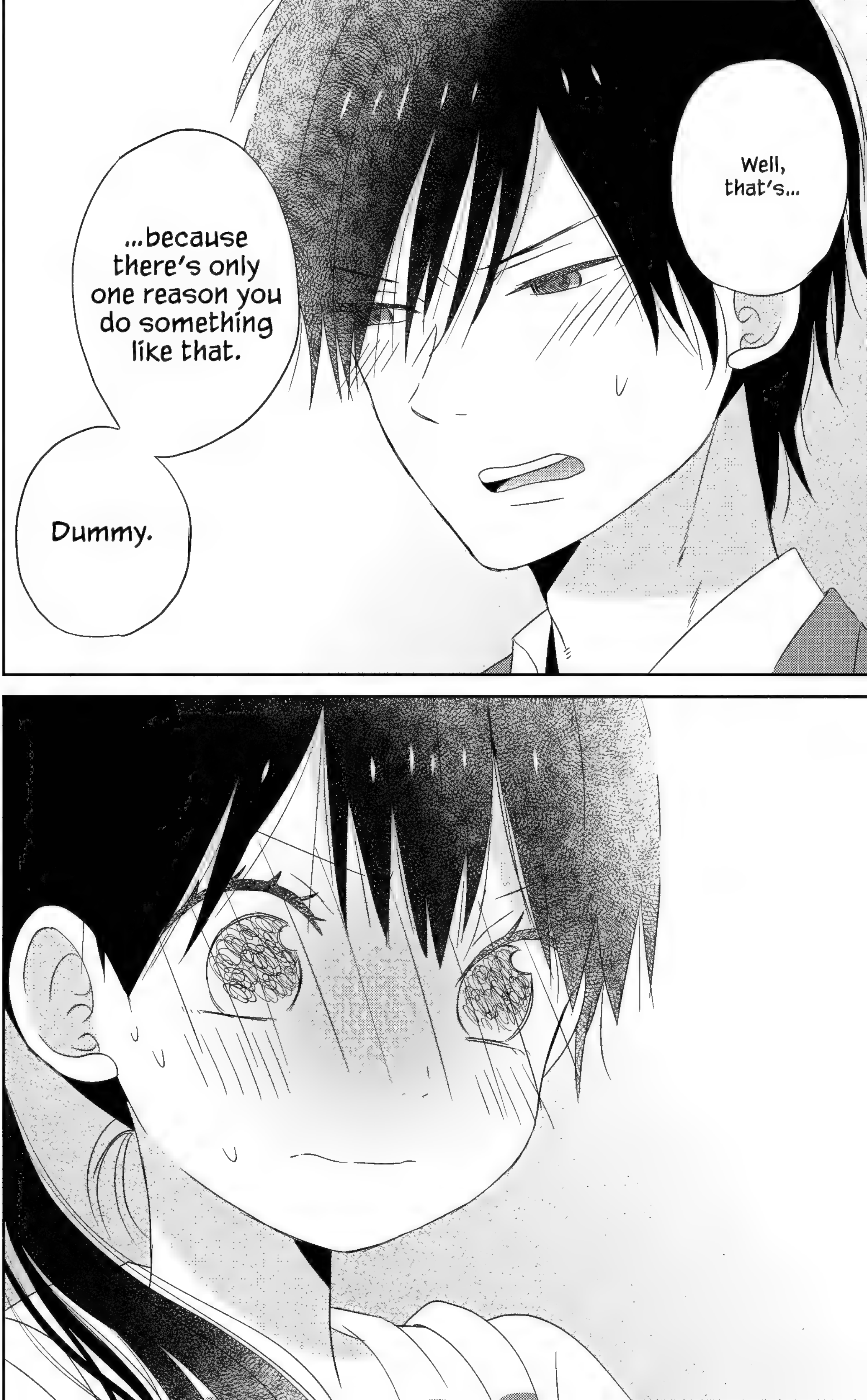

...and she was the one who stole the name Kukai from me.
But she really is a good person...
...and she always does her very best.
I'd like it if she read it again.
I'd like it if I could make her smile.
I was thinking about how I wish we could be friends again...
...and that maybe I'll resume writing my novel.
I guess that probably...
...won't work.

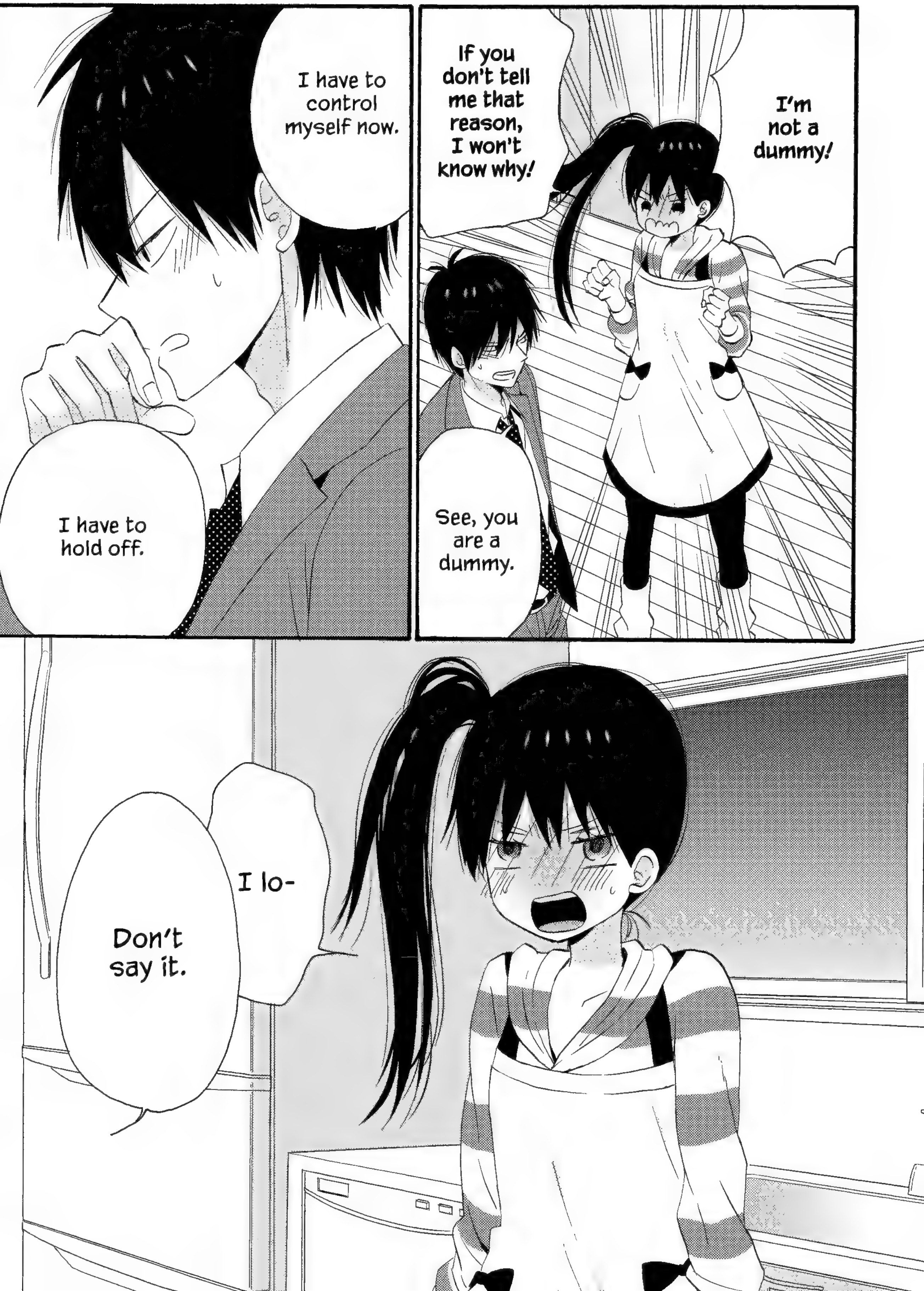

I'm home.
ドキー!!
BA-DUM
W-welcome home, Hiro! You're awfully early!
Yeah, though from tomorrow on it's going to be the worst schedule.
Jeez, you're scaring me.
Daiki at work?
Yeah.
...
Uh, um... Hey.
I told Daiki about it, but I was thinking I'd go home this weekend.

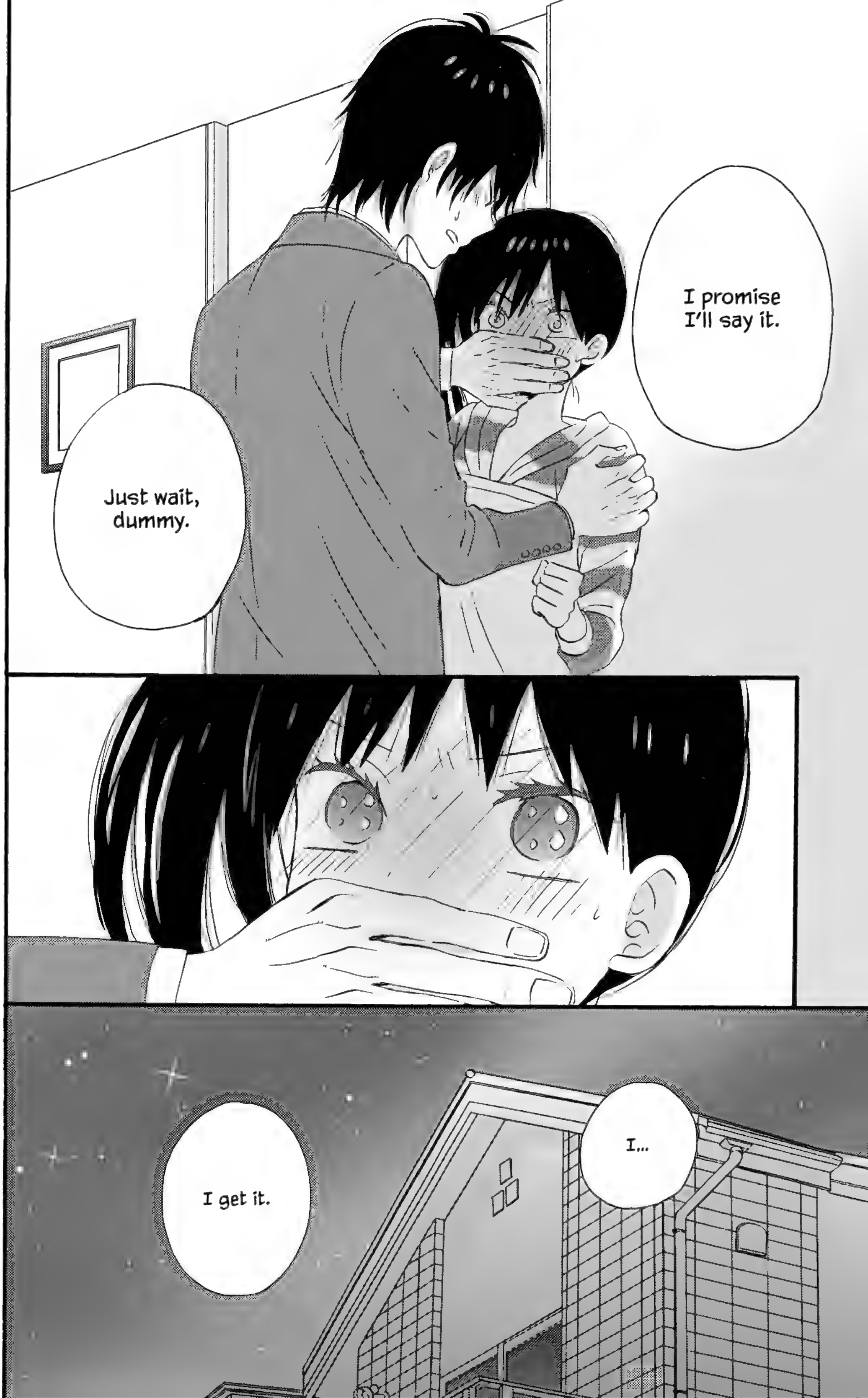

Okay.
This time I was thinking I might stay a little bit longer than usual.
I mean, if they say I can, at least.
I'd also like to go on a family vacation.
I've been thinking about it since the school trip.
...
Can we go?
Maybe the whole family can come along.


I'll call Hina, too.
Oh, but she might not want to come.
The more the merrier, after all.
That'd be great.
I-I wanna go!
I'm not sure if my dad will say yes, though.
It doesn't have to be right away.
Let's go someday.
Yeah.

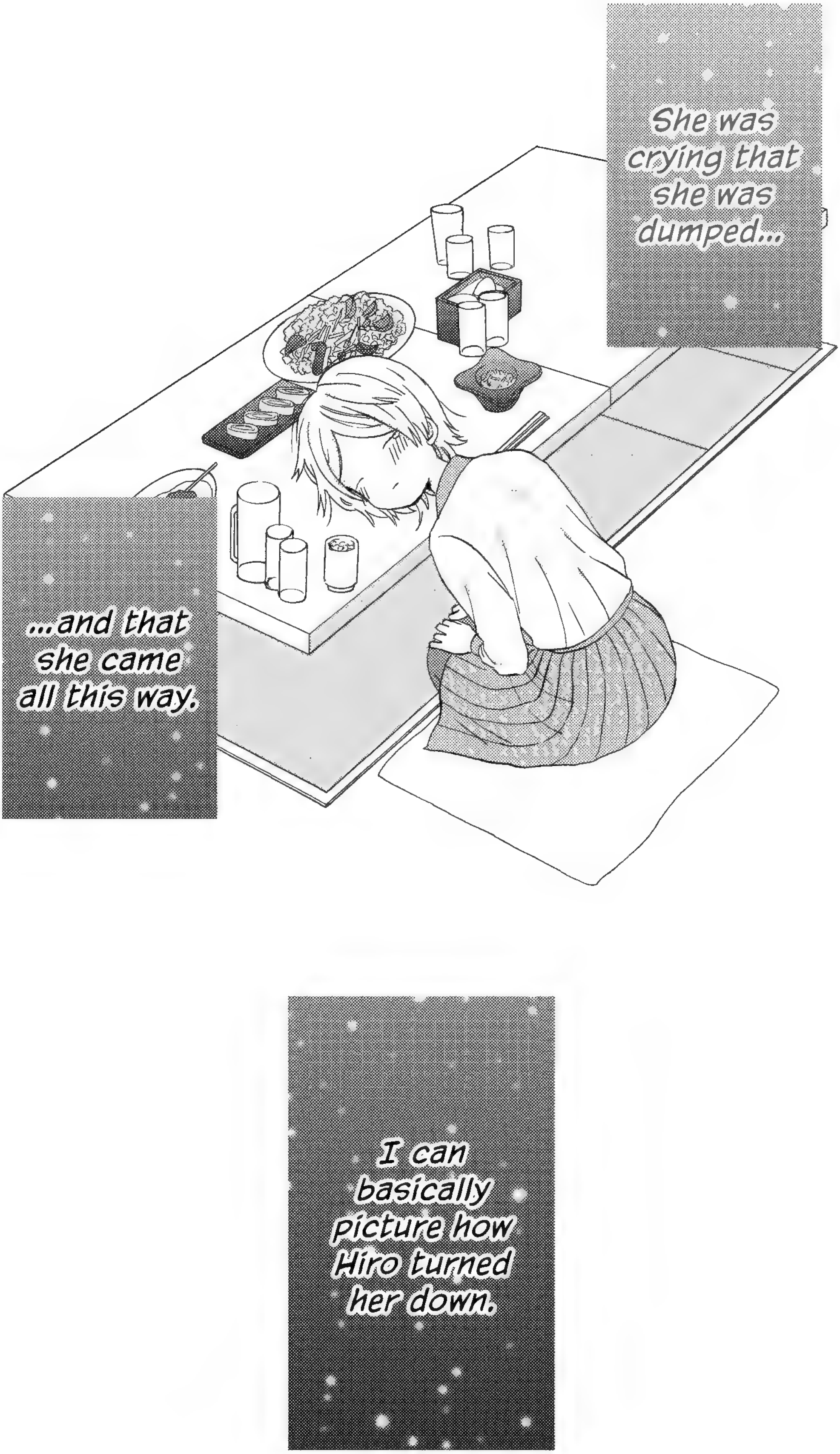

I've always thought...
...you tell me exactly what I want to hear...
...don't you, Hiro?
B-but...
...then why, yesterday...
...why didn't you tell me anything...
...about why you did that yesterday?

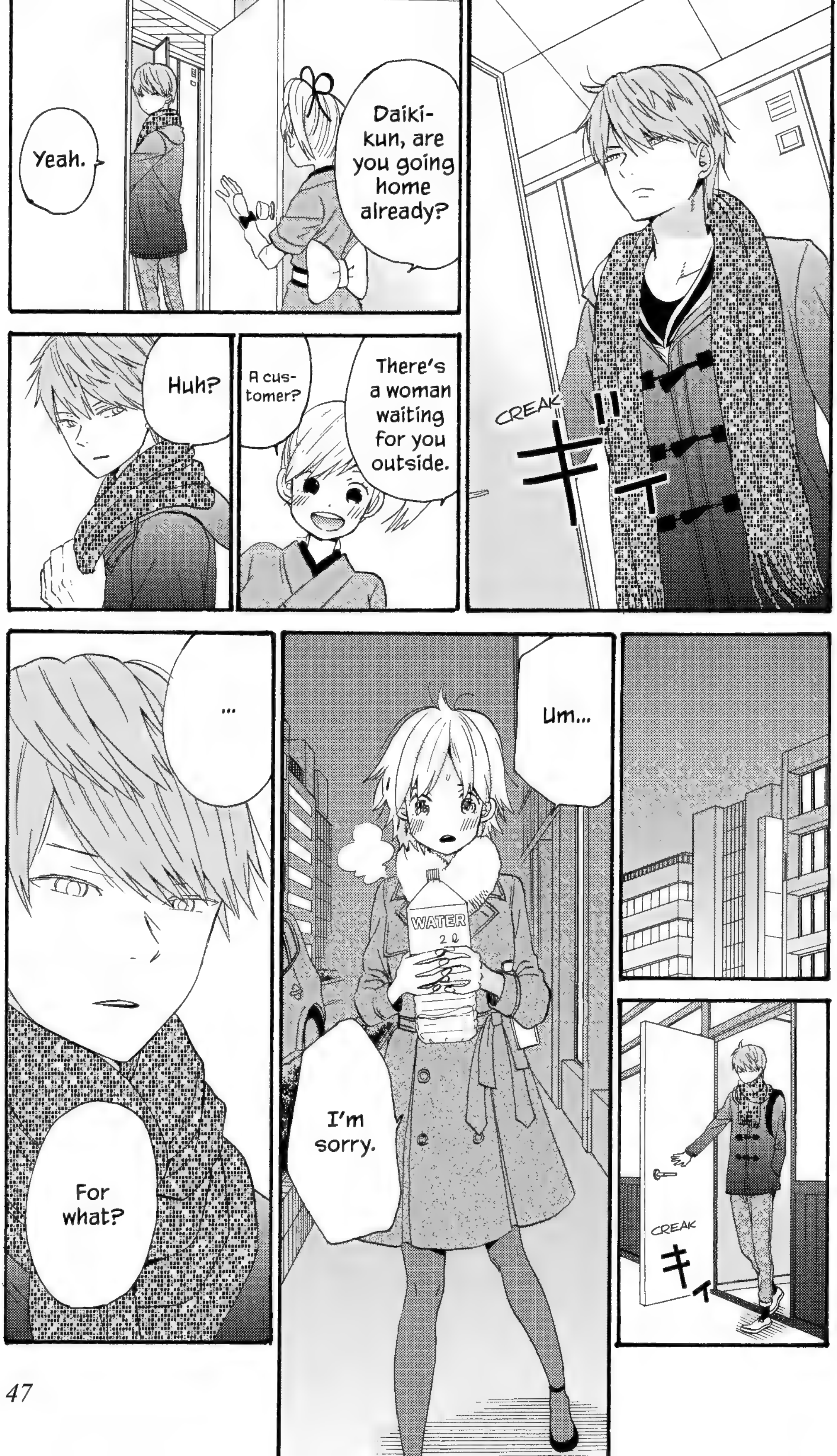

Well, that's...
...because there's only one reason you do something like that.
Dummy.

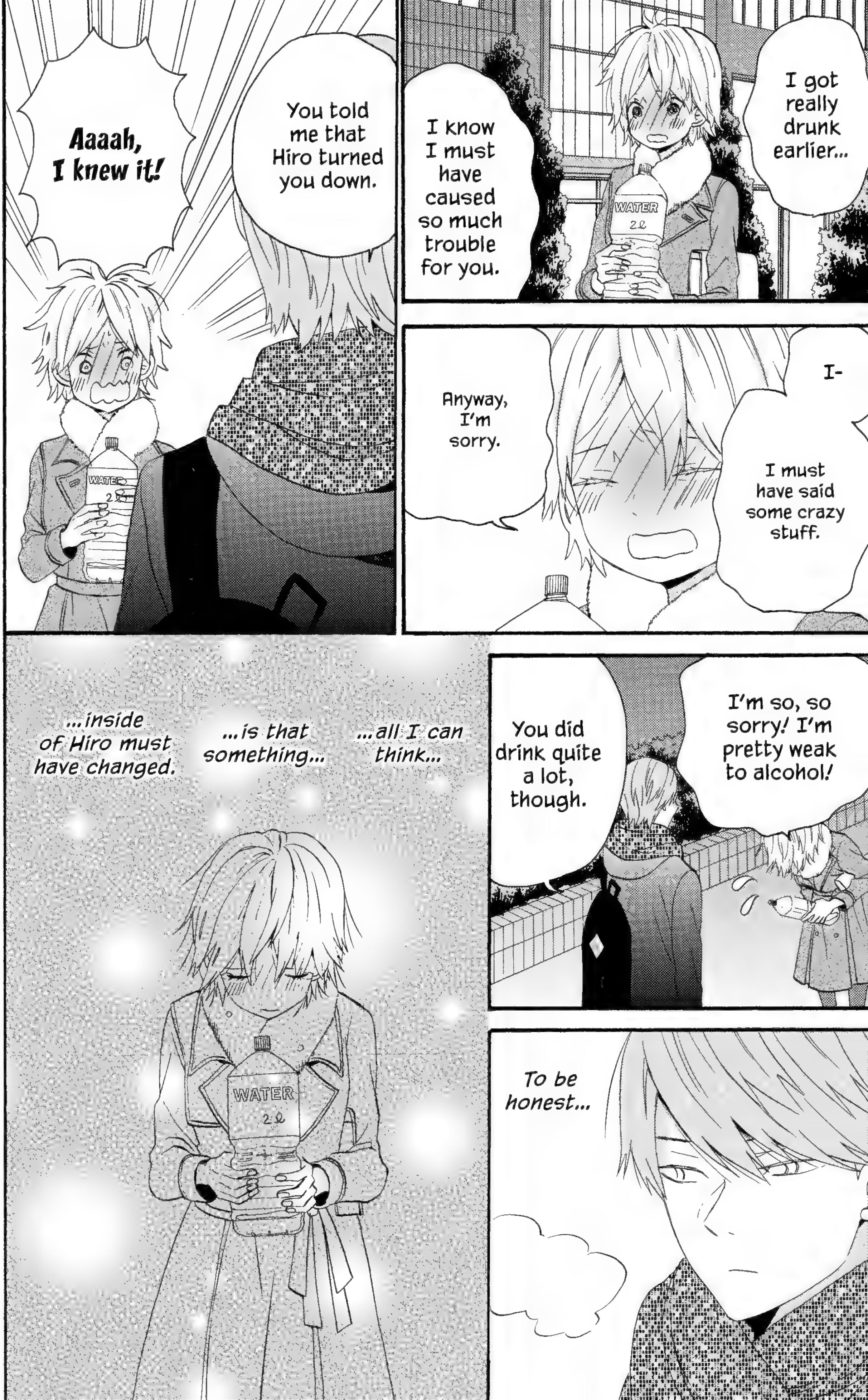

I'm not a dummy!
If you don't tell me that reason, I won't know why!
See, you are a dummy.
I have to control myself now.
I have to hold off.
I lo-
Don't say it.

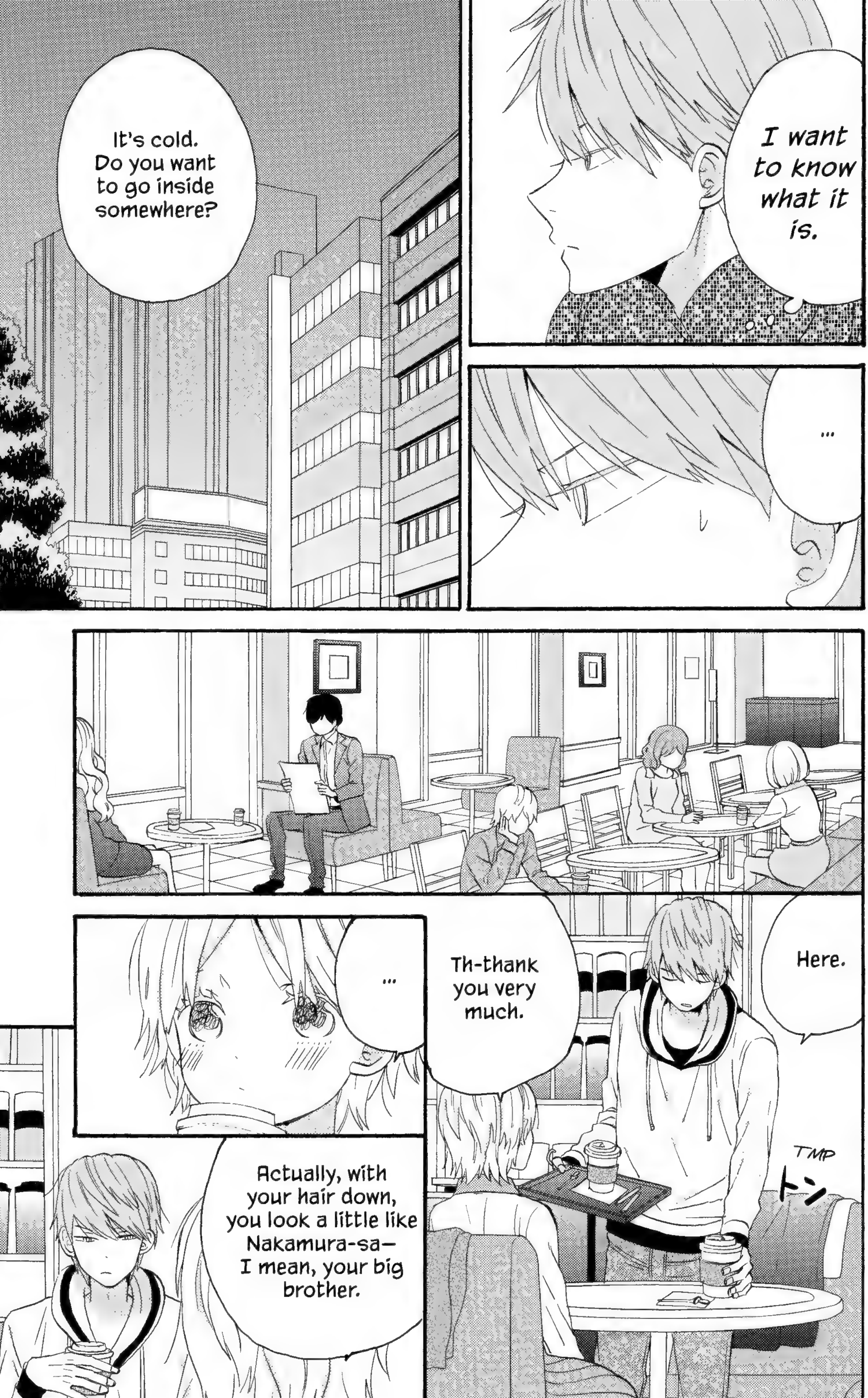

I promise I'll say it.
Just wait, dummy.
I...
I get it.

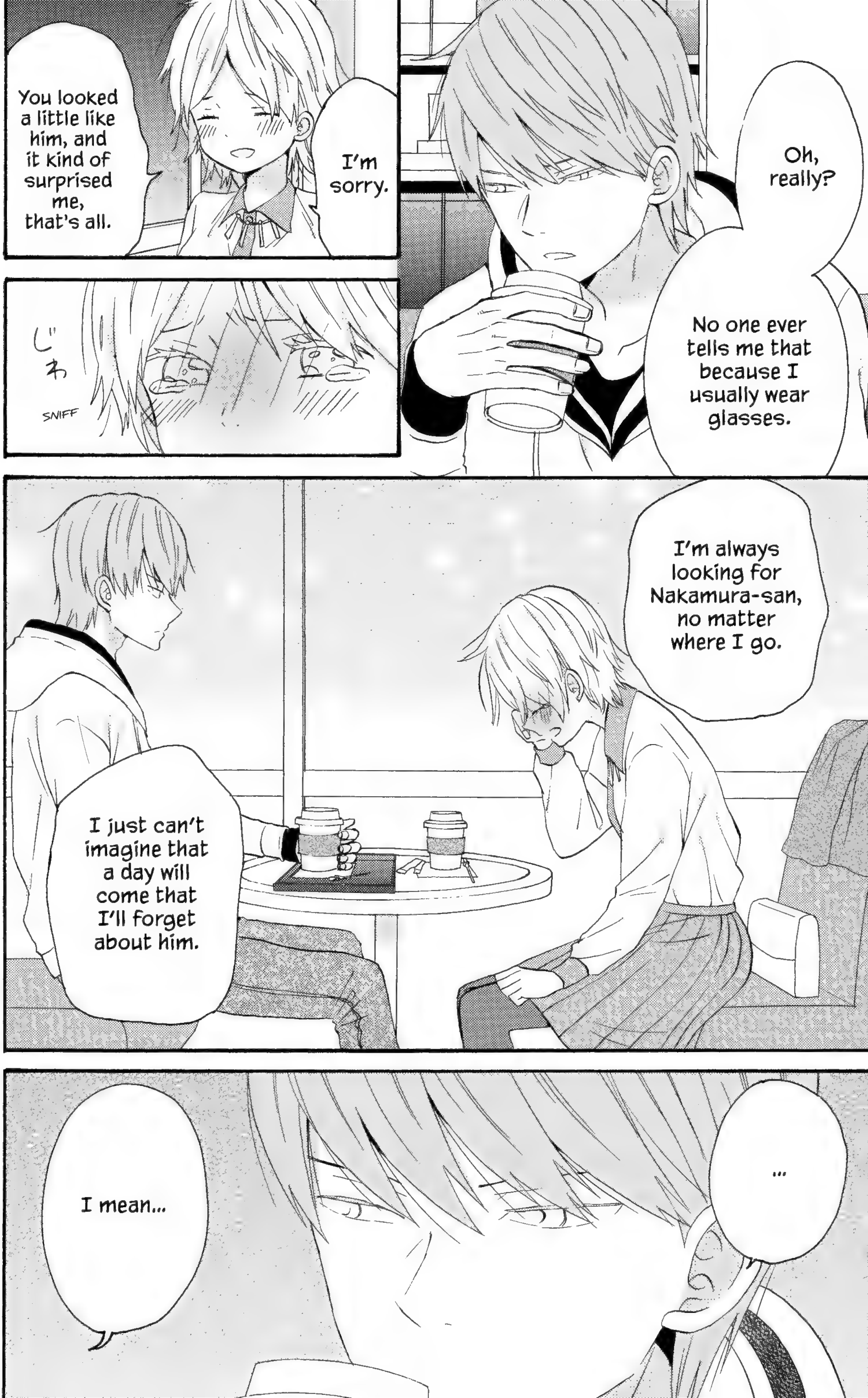
story 34 Restless

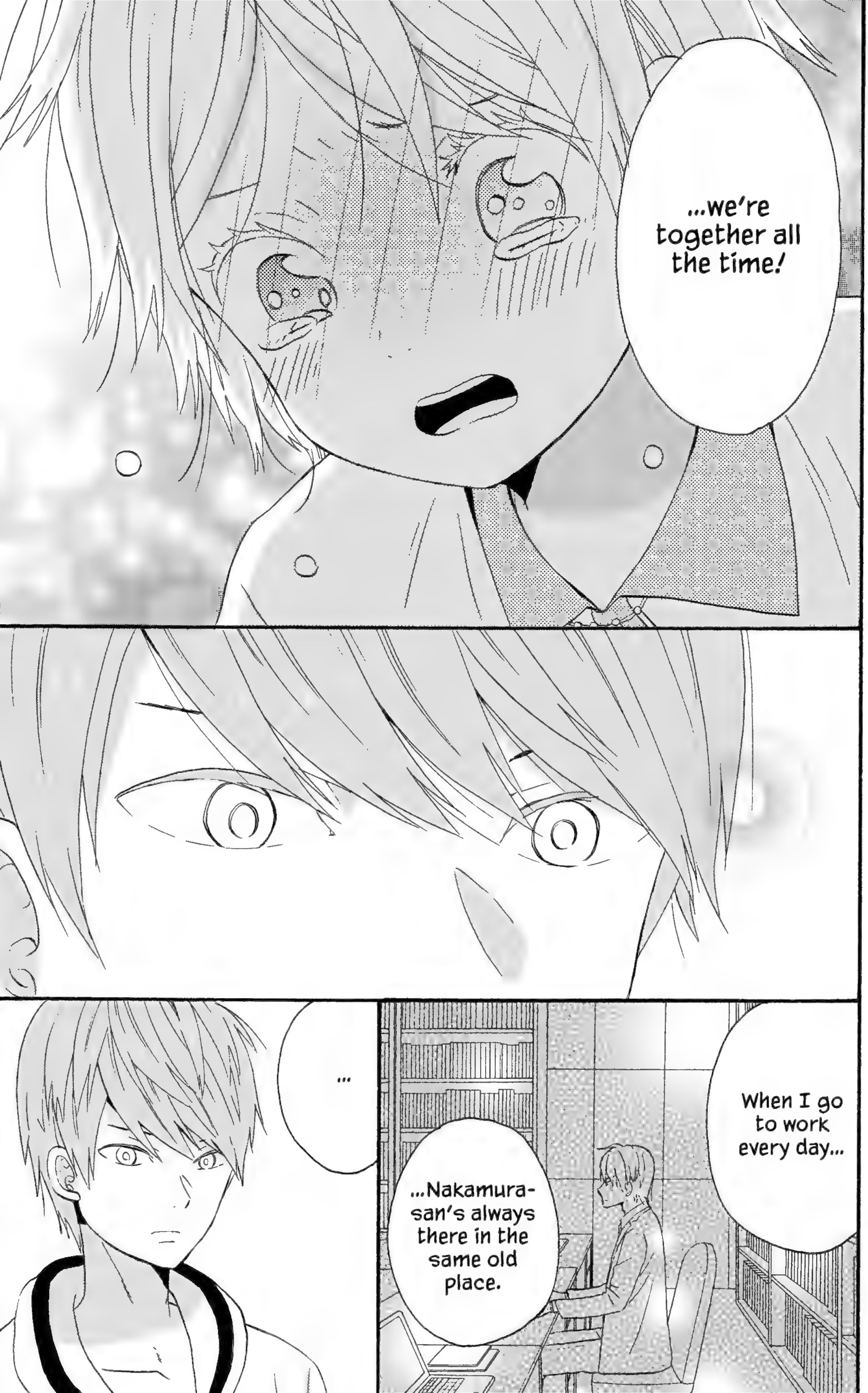

She was crying that she was dumped...
...and that she came all this way.
I can basically picture how Hiro turned her down.

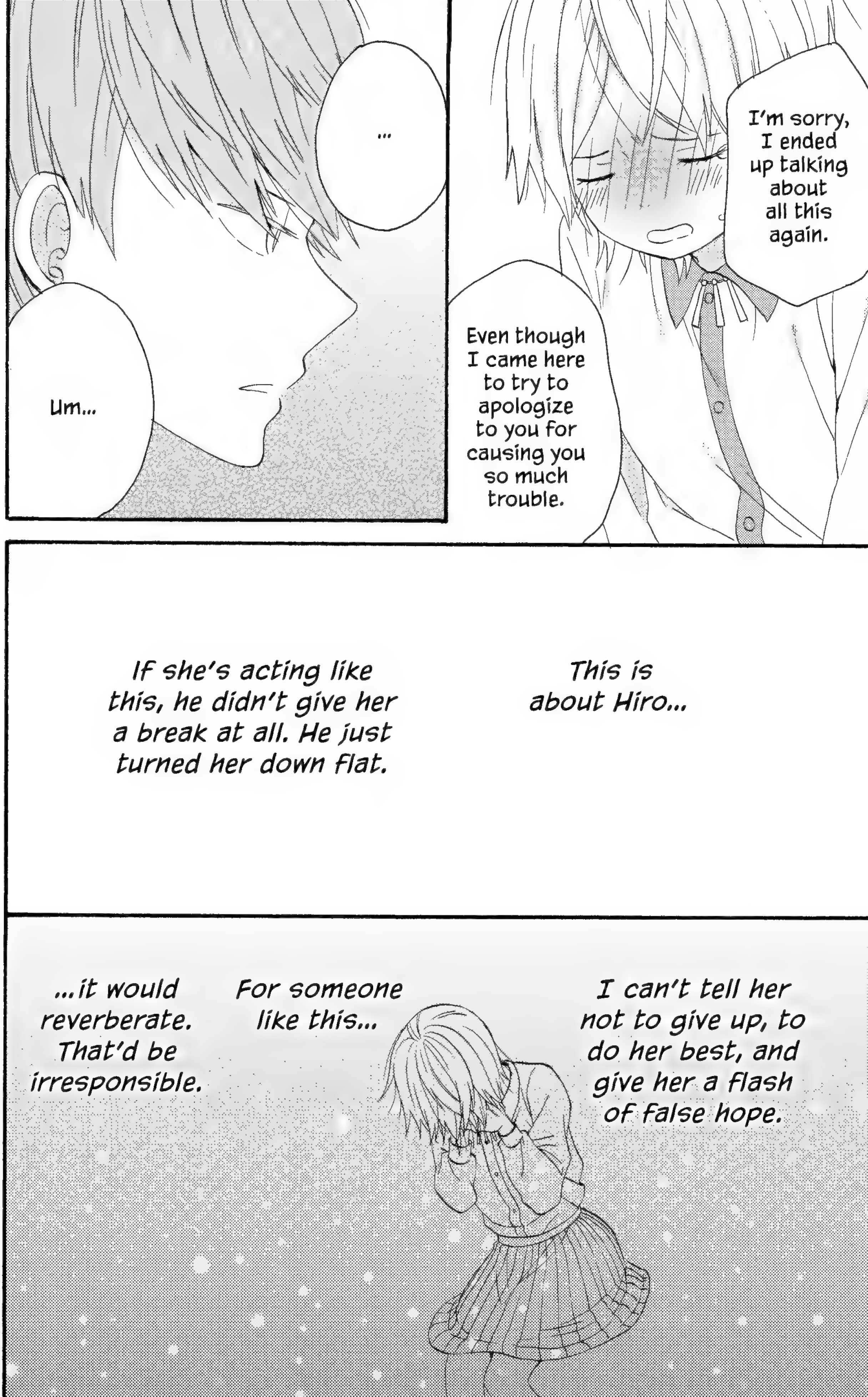

CREAK
ギィ
Daiki-kun, are you going home already?
Yeah.
There's a woman waiting for you outside.
A customer?
Huh?
CREAK
キィ
Um...
I'm sorry.
...
For what?

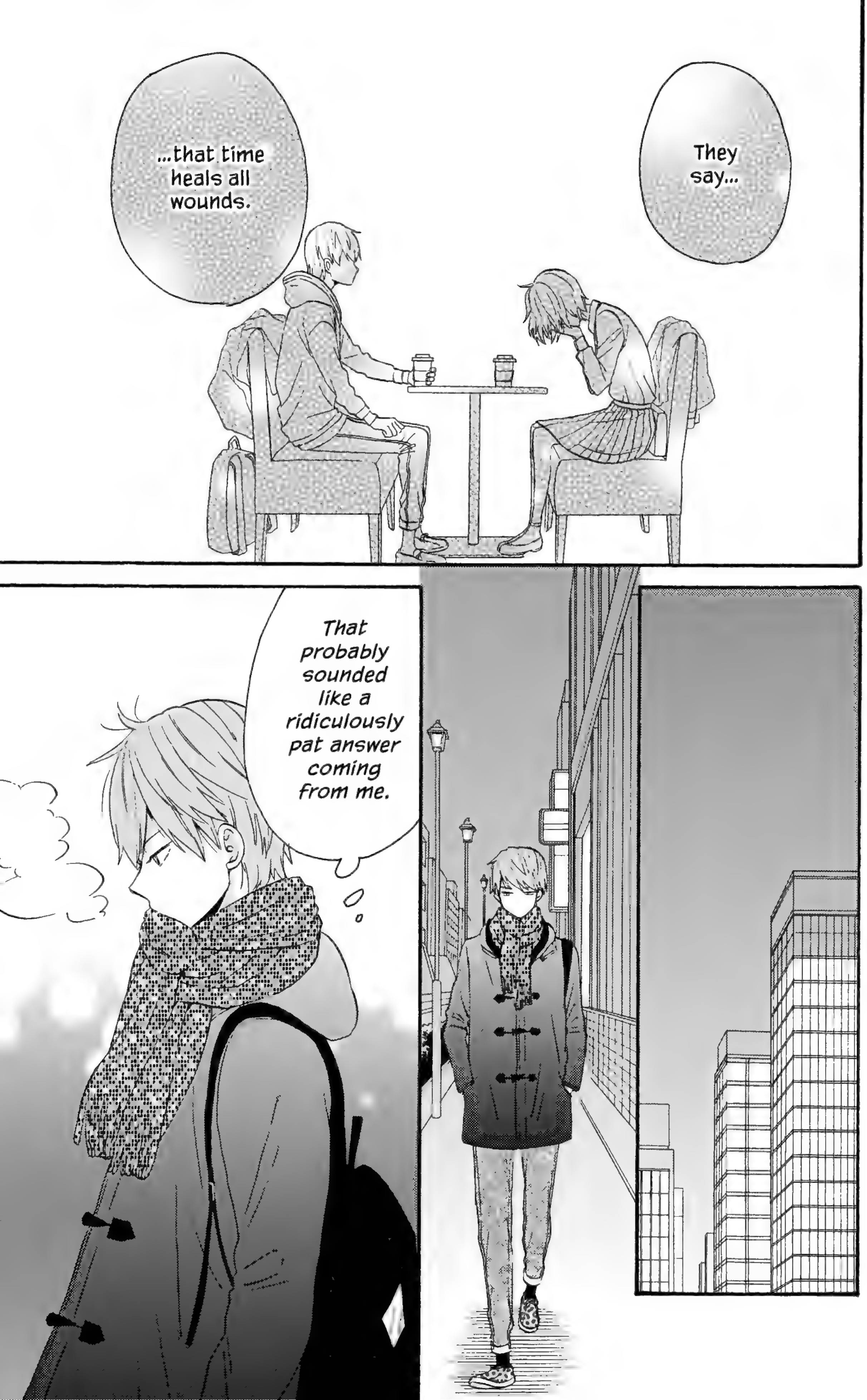

I got really drunk earlier...
I know I must have caused so much trouble for you.
I-
I must have said some crazy stuff.
Anyway, I'm sorry.
You told me that Hiro turned you down.
Aaaah, I knew it!
I'm so, so sorry! I'm pretty weak to alcohol!
You did drink quite a lot, though.
To be honest...
...all I can think...
...is that something...
...inside of Hiro must have changed.
WATER 2ℓ

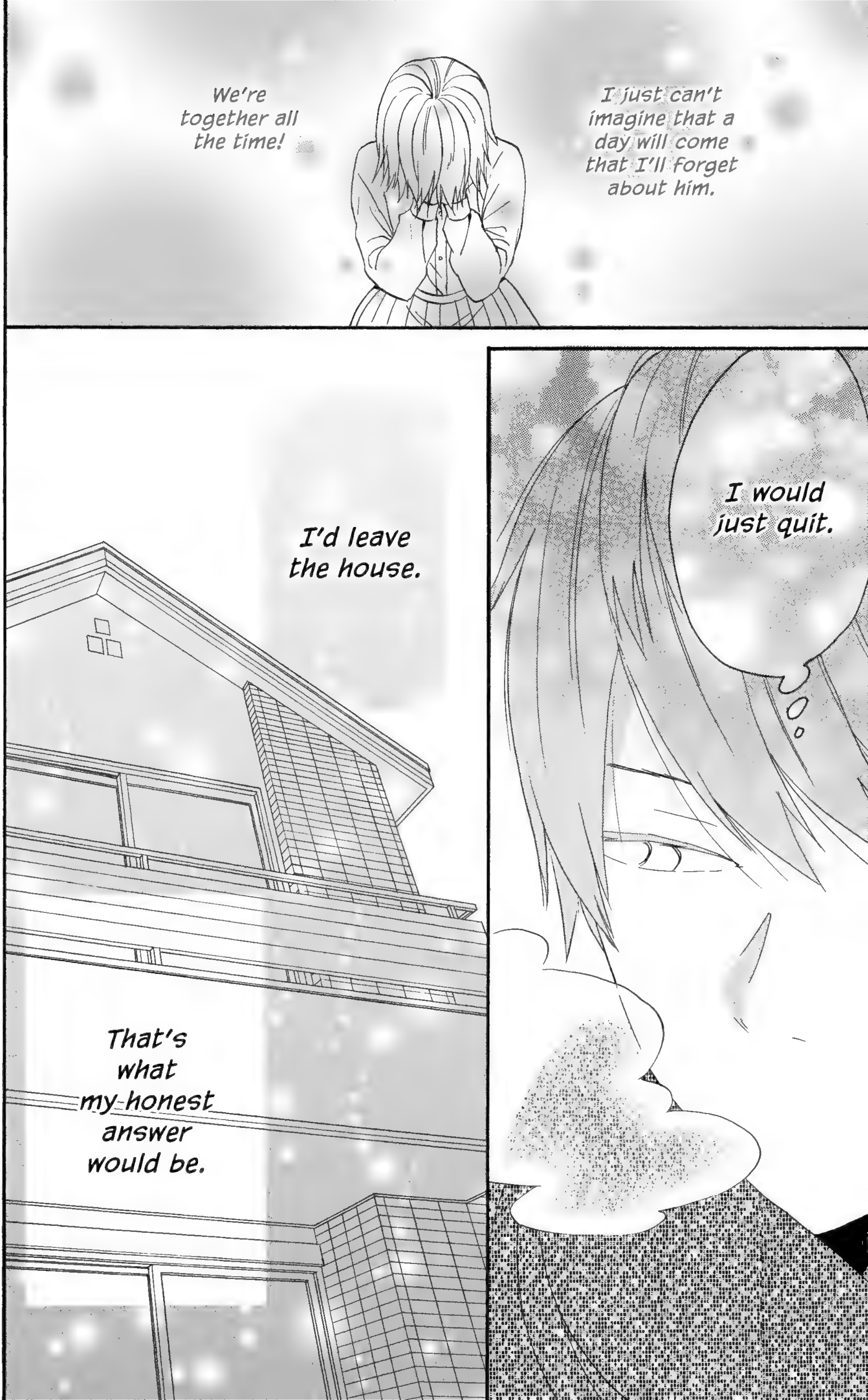

I want to know what it is.
...
It's cold. Do you want to go inside somewhere?
Here.
TMP トン
Th-thank you very much.
...
Actually, with your hair down, you look a little like Nakamura-sa— I mean, your big brother.

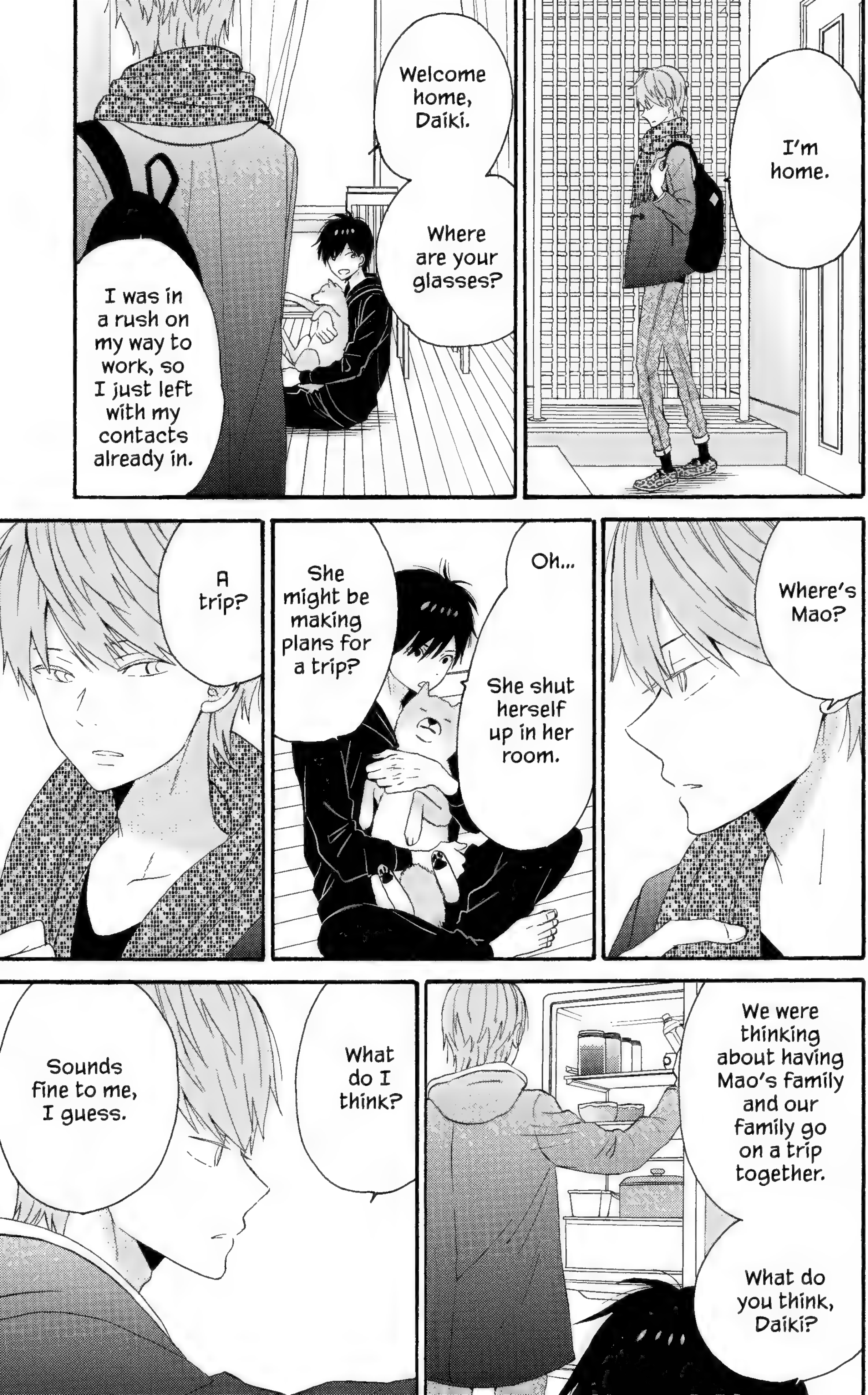

I'm sorry.
You looked a little like him, and it kind of surprised me, that's all.
じわ
SNIFF
Oh, really?
No one ever tells me that because I usually wear glasses.
I'm always looking for Nakamura-san, no matter where I go.
I just can't imagine that a day will come that I'll forget about him.
...
I mean...

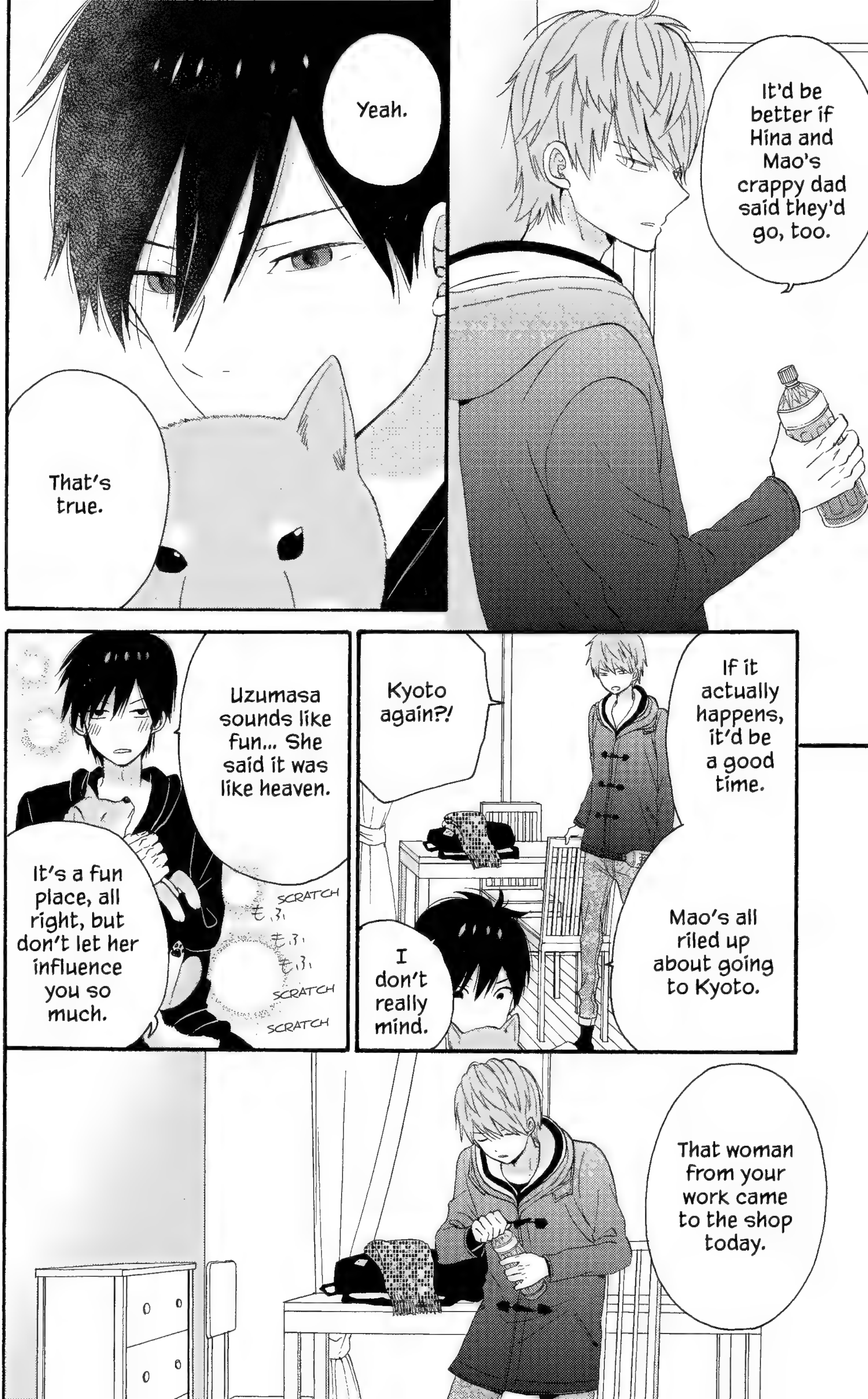

...we're together all the time!
...
When I go to work every day...
...Nakamura-san's always there in the same old place.

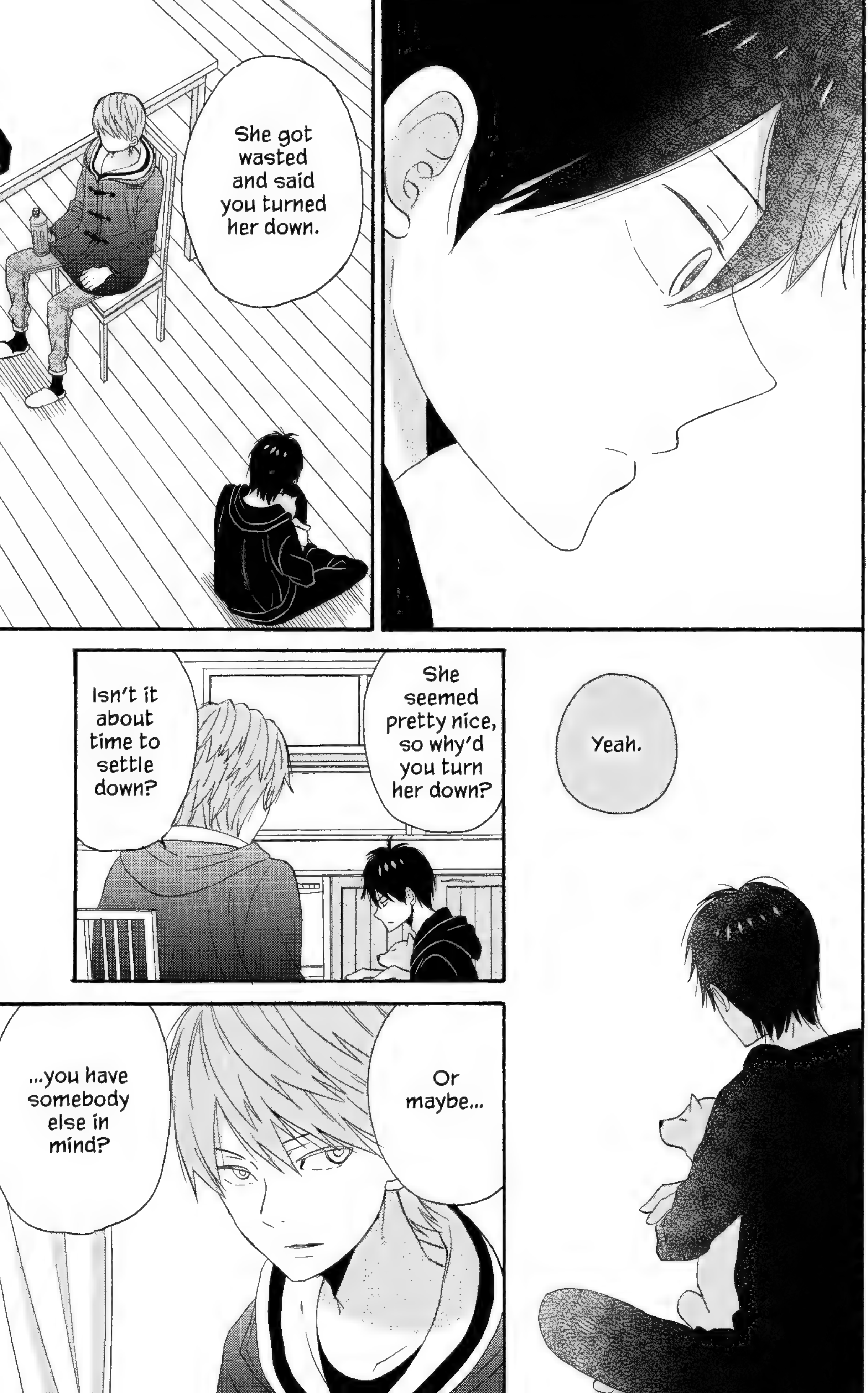

I'm sorry, I ended up talking about all this again.
Even though I came here to try to apologize to you for causing you so much trouble.
...
Um...
This is about Hiro...
If she's acting like this, he didn't give her a break at all. He just turned her down flat.
I can't tell her not to give up, to do her best, and give her a flash of false hope.
For someone like this...
...it would reverberate. That'd be irresponsible.

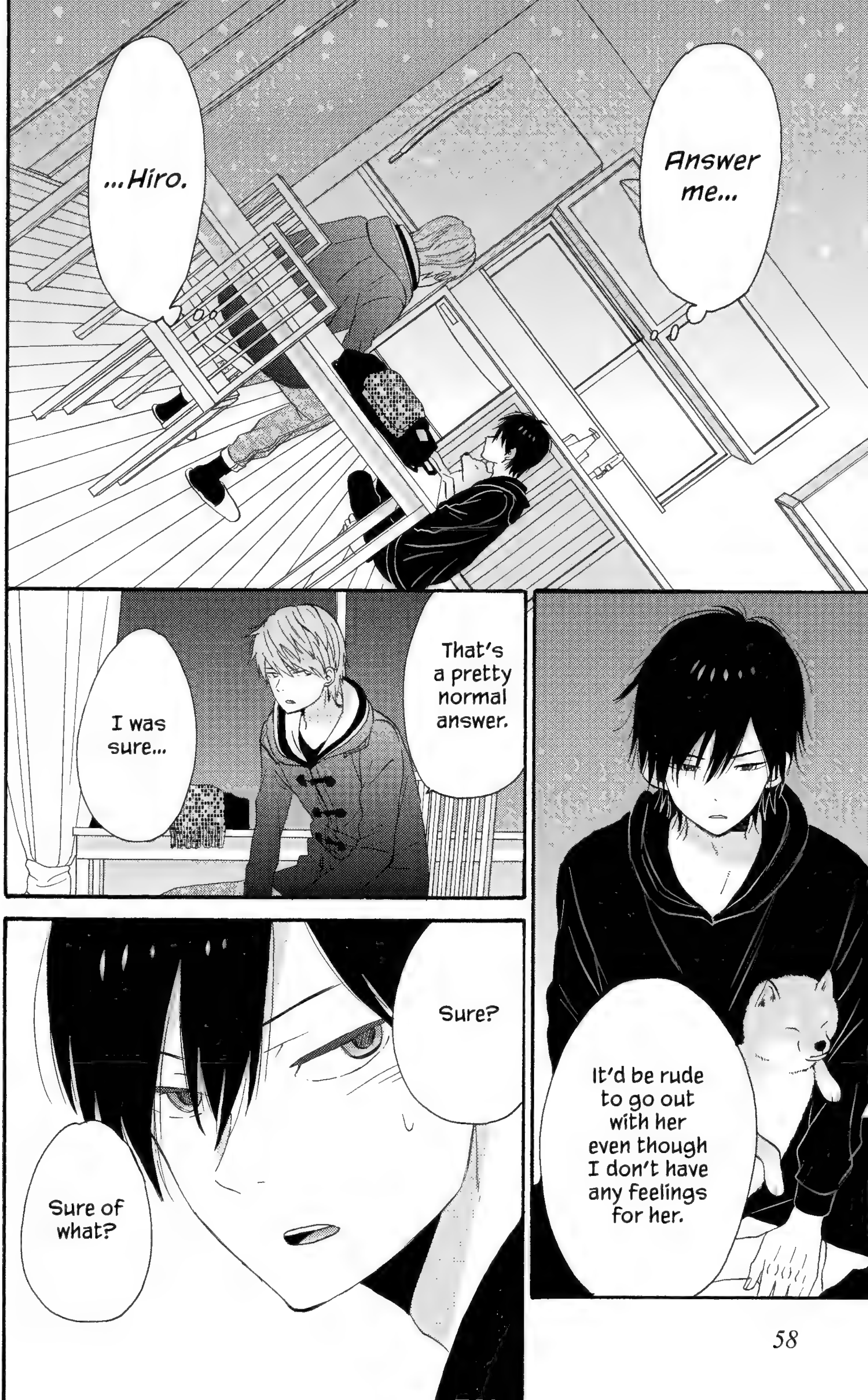

They say...
...that time heals all wounds.
That probably sounded like a ridiculously pat answer coming from me.

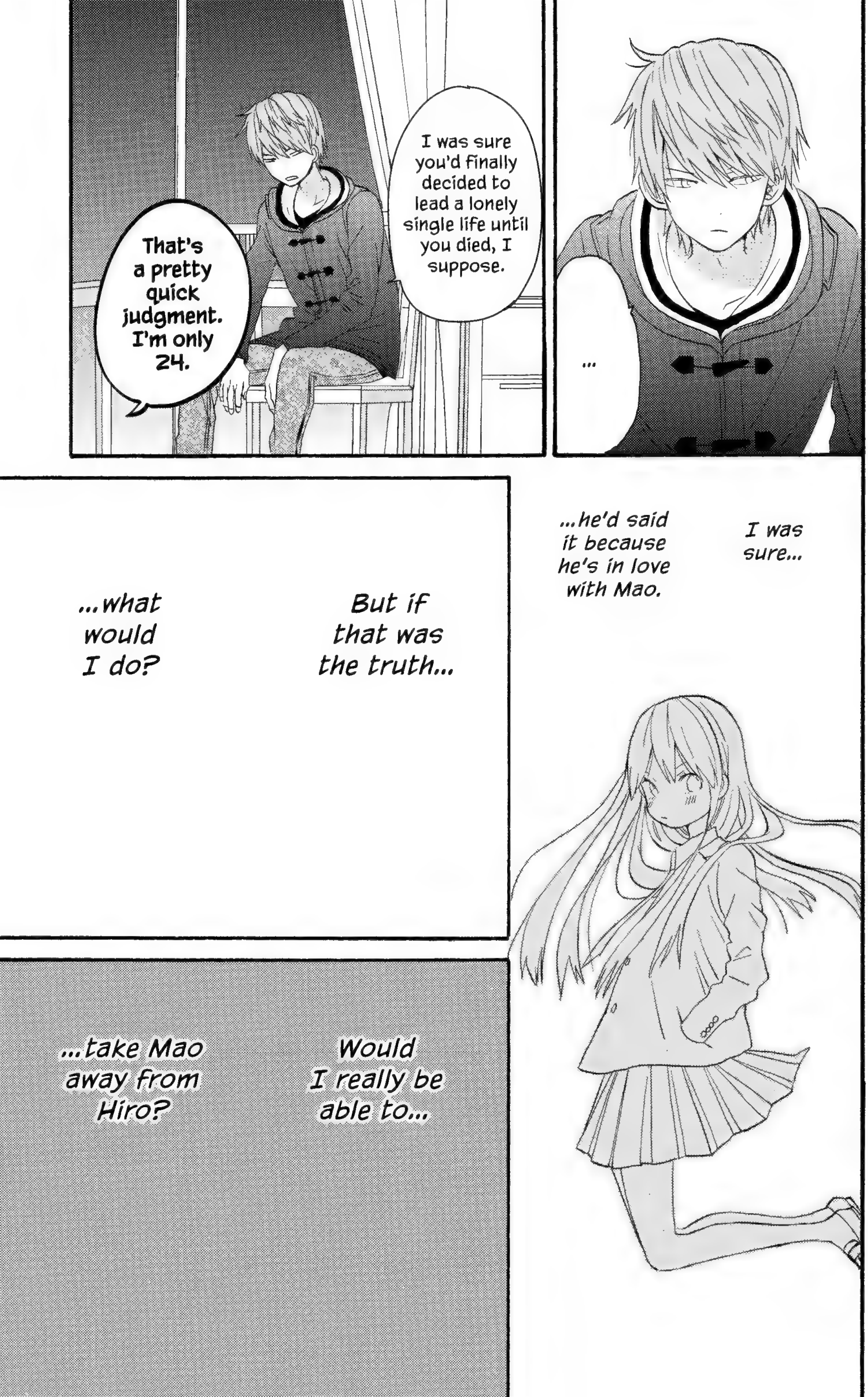

I just can't imagine that a day will come that I'll forget about him.
We're together all the time!
I would just quit.
I'd leave the house.
That's what my honest answer would be.

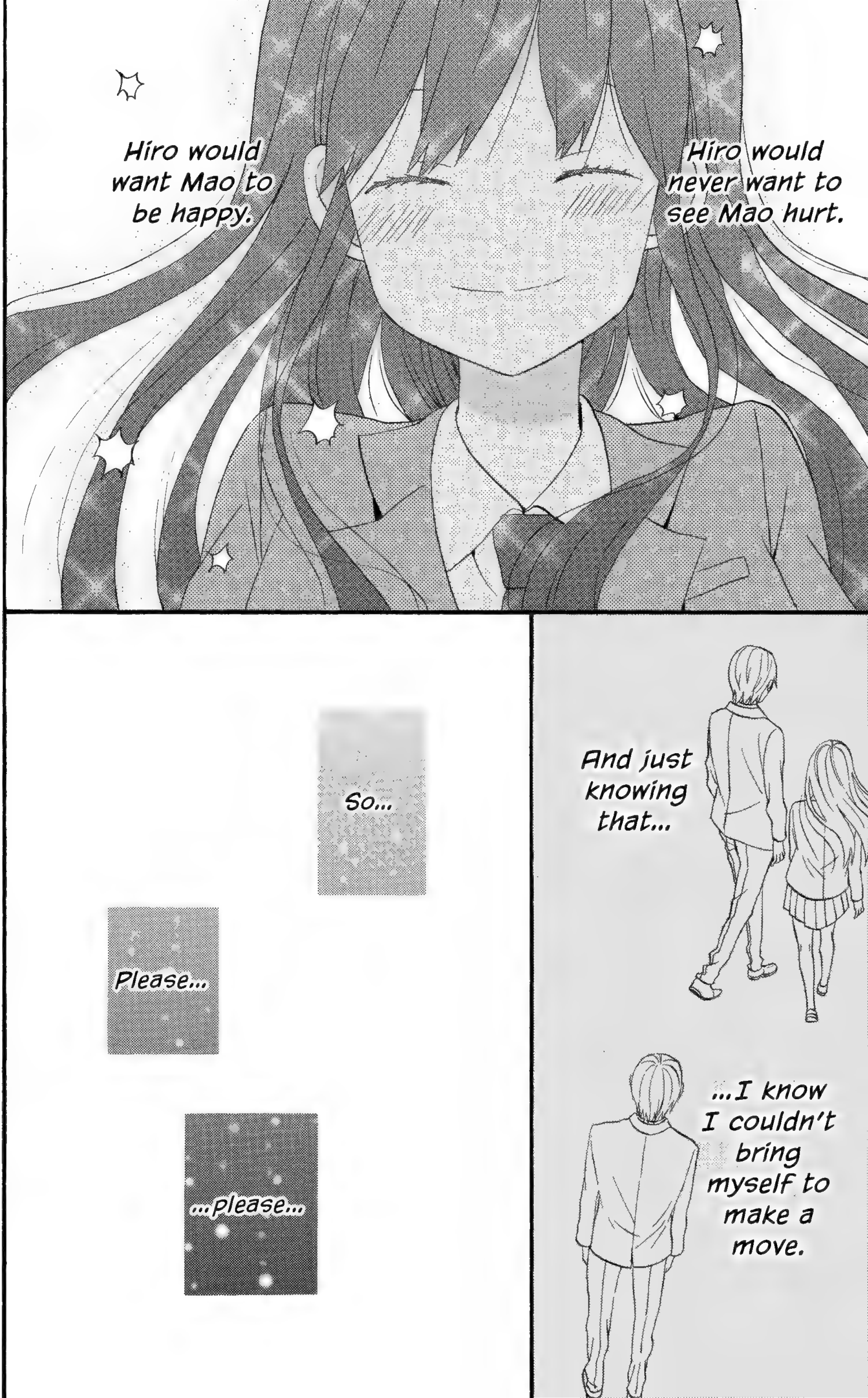

I'm home.
Welcome home, Daiki.
Where are your glasses?
I was in a rush on my way to work, so I just left with my contacts already in.
Where's Mao?
Oh...
She shut herself up in her room.
She might be making plans for a trip?
A trip?
We were thinking about having Mao's family and our family go on a trip together.
What do you think, Daiki?
What do I think?
Sounds fine to me, I guess.

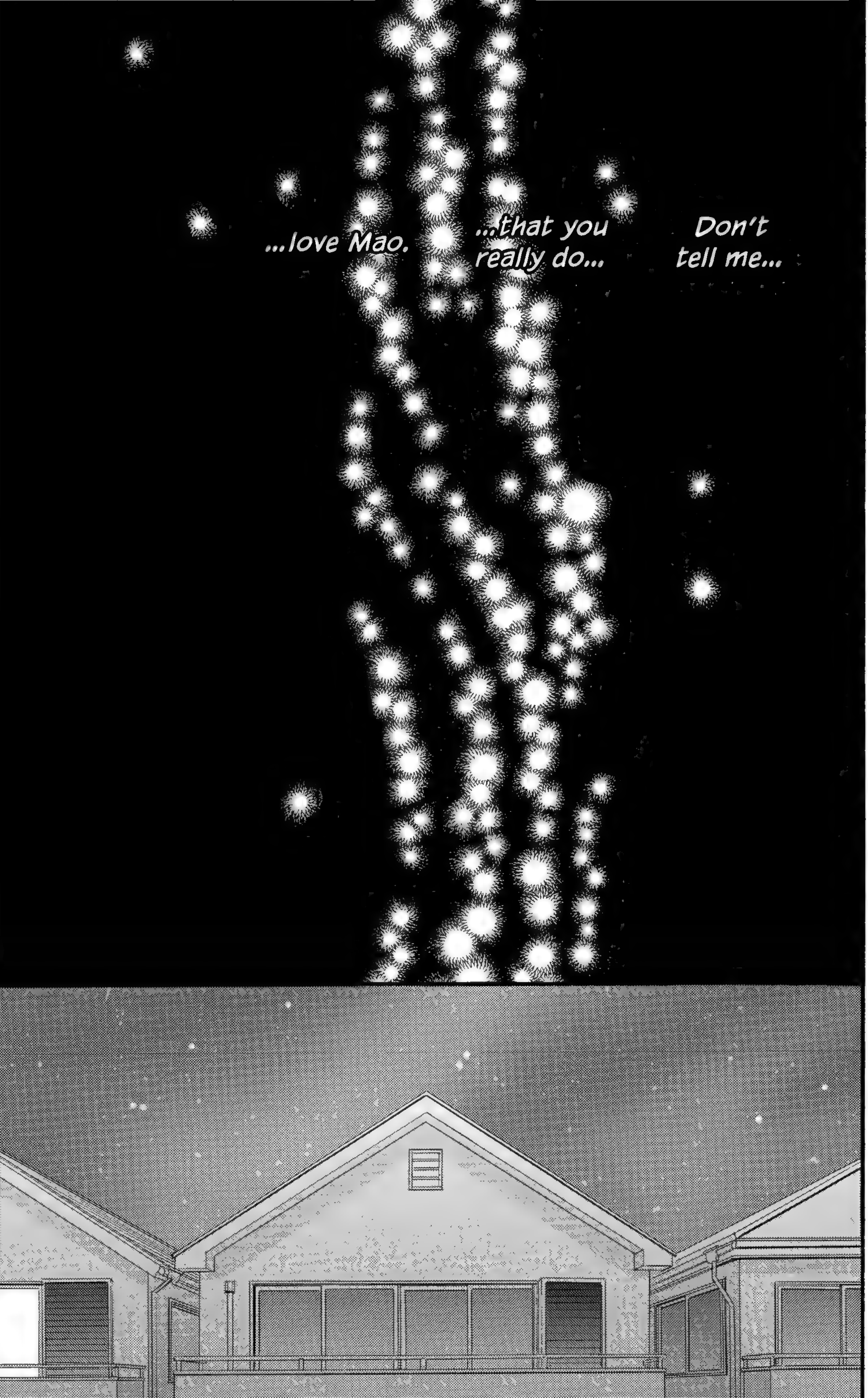

It'd be better if Hina and Mao's crappy dad said they'd go, too.
Yeah.
That's true.
If it actually happens, it'd be a good time.
Kyoto again?!
Mao's all riled up about going to Kyoto.
I don't really mind.
Uzumasa sounds like fun... She said it was like heaven.
It's a fun place, all right, but don't let her influence you so much.
SCRATCH
もふ
もふ
もふ
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
That woman from your work came to the shop today.

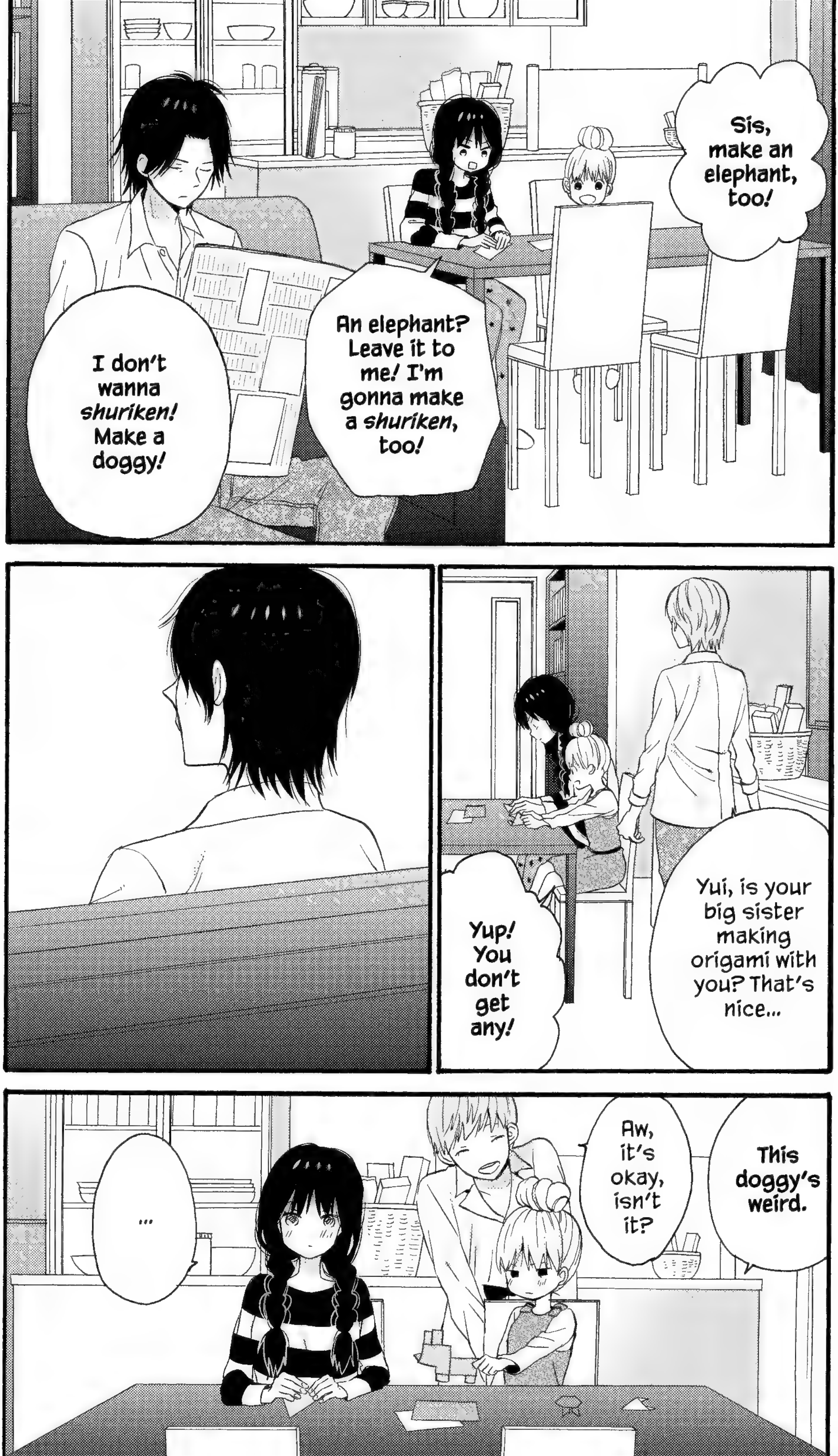

She got wasted and said you turned her down.
Yeah.
She seemed pretty nice, so why'd you turn her down?
Isn't it about time to settle down?
Or maybe...
...you have somebody else in mind?

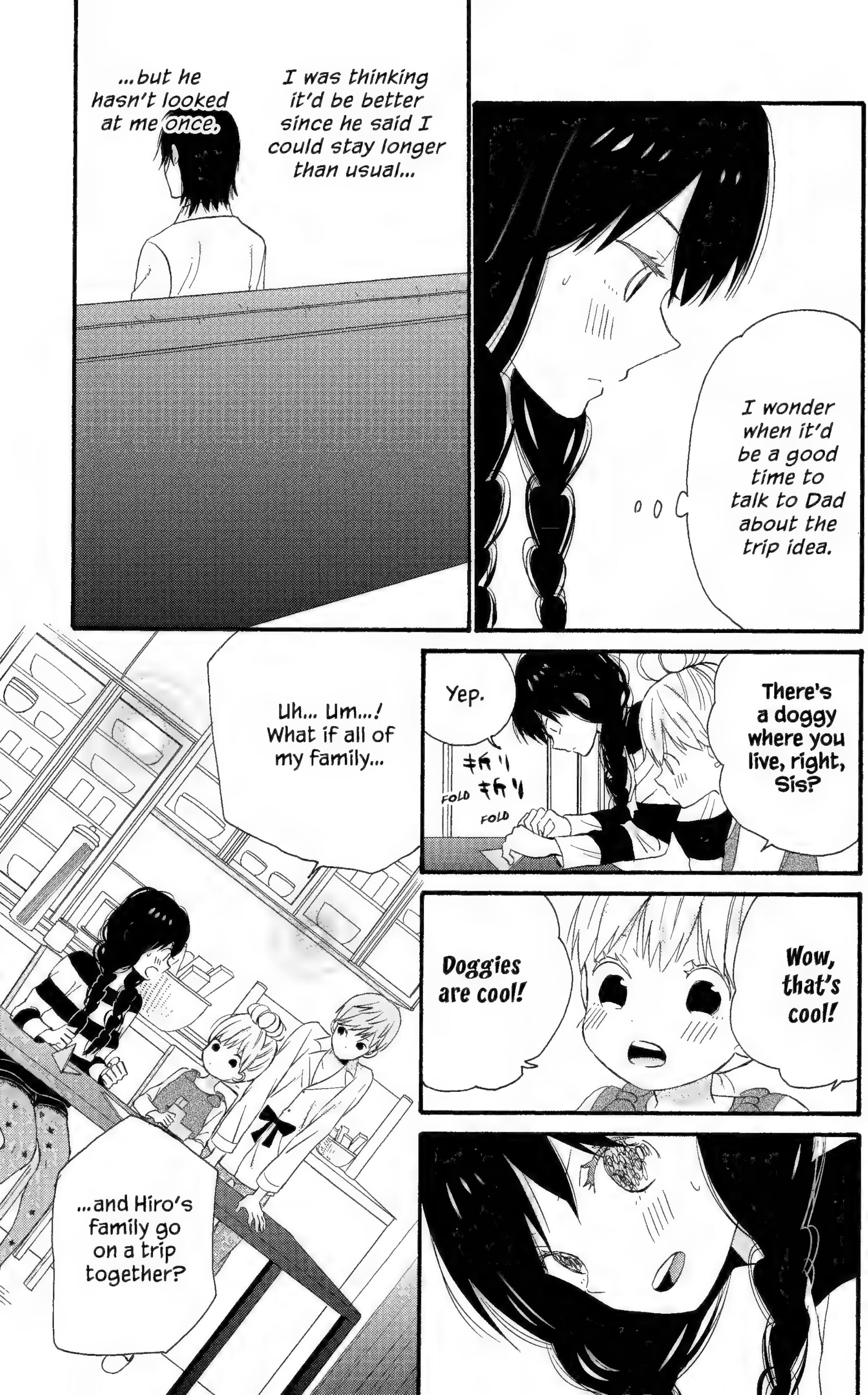

Answer me...
...Hiro.
It'd be rude to go out with her even though I don't have any feelings for her.
That's a pretty normal answer.
I was sure...
Sure?
Sure of what?

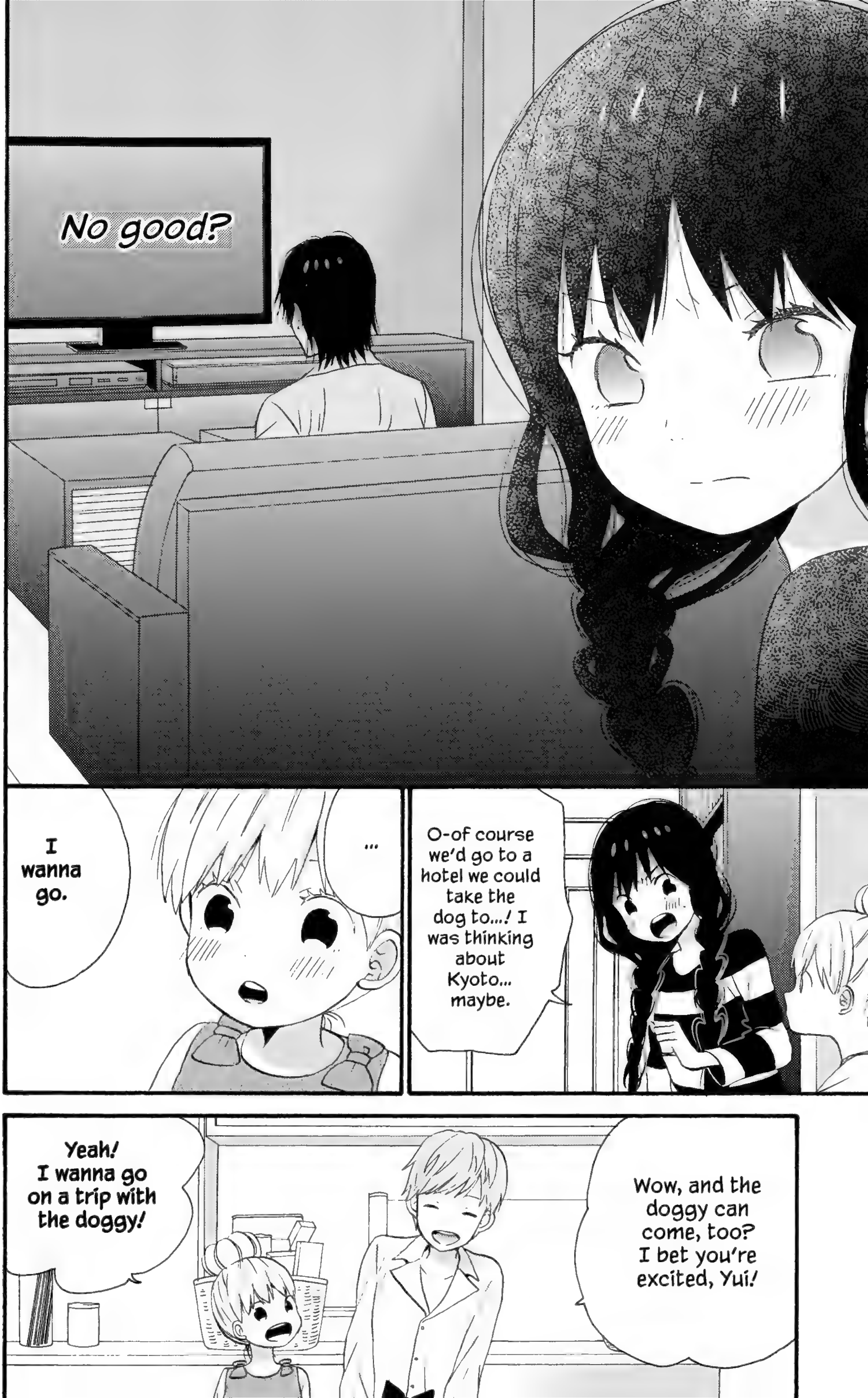

...
I was sure you'd finally decided to lead a lonely single life until you died, I suppose.
That's a pretty quick judgment. I'm only 24.
I was sure...
...he'd said it because he's in love with Mao.
But if that was the truth...
...what would I do?
Would I really be able to...
...take Mao away from Hiro?

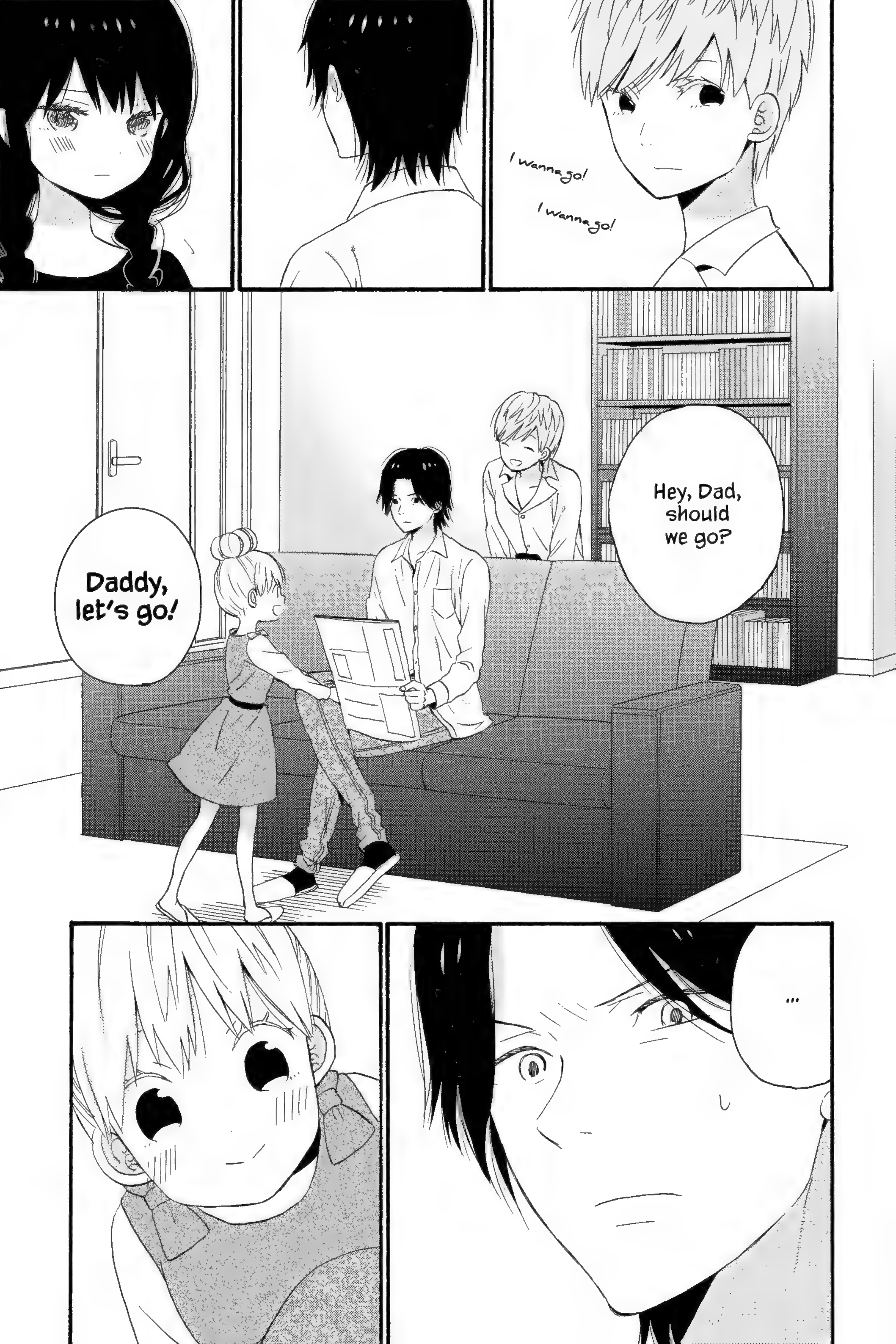

Hiro would never want to see Mao hurt.
Hiro would want Mao to be happy.
And just knowing that...
...I know I couldn't bring myself to make a move.
So...
Please...
...please...

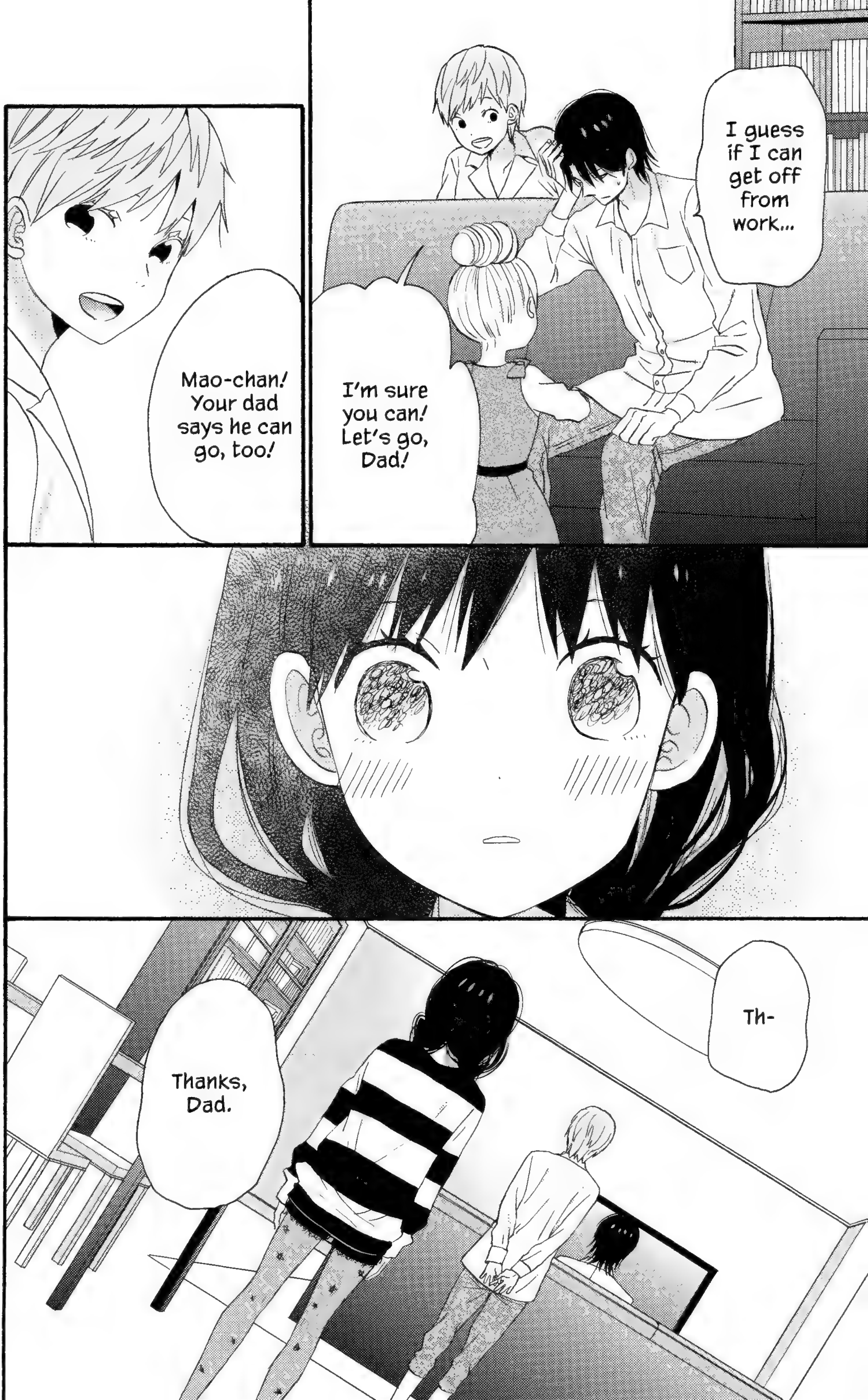

Don't tell me...
...that you really do...
...love Mao.

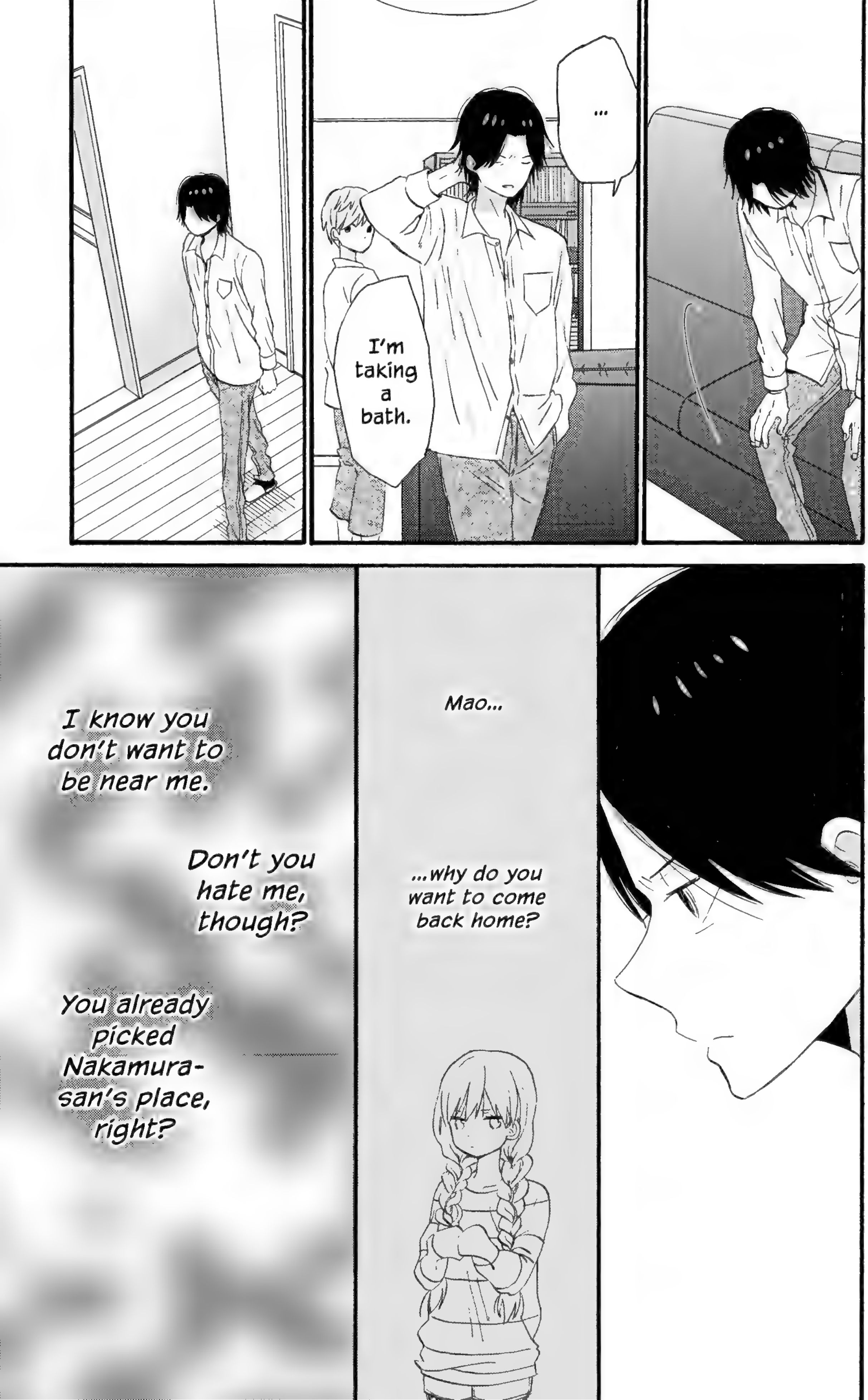

Sis, make an elephant, too!
An elephant? Leave it to me! I'm gonna make a *shuriken*, too!
I don't wanna *shuriken*! Make a doggy!
Yui, is your big sister making origami with you? That's nice...
Yup! You don't get any!
This doggy's weird.
Aw, it's okay, isn't it?
...

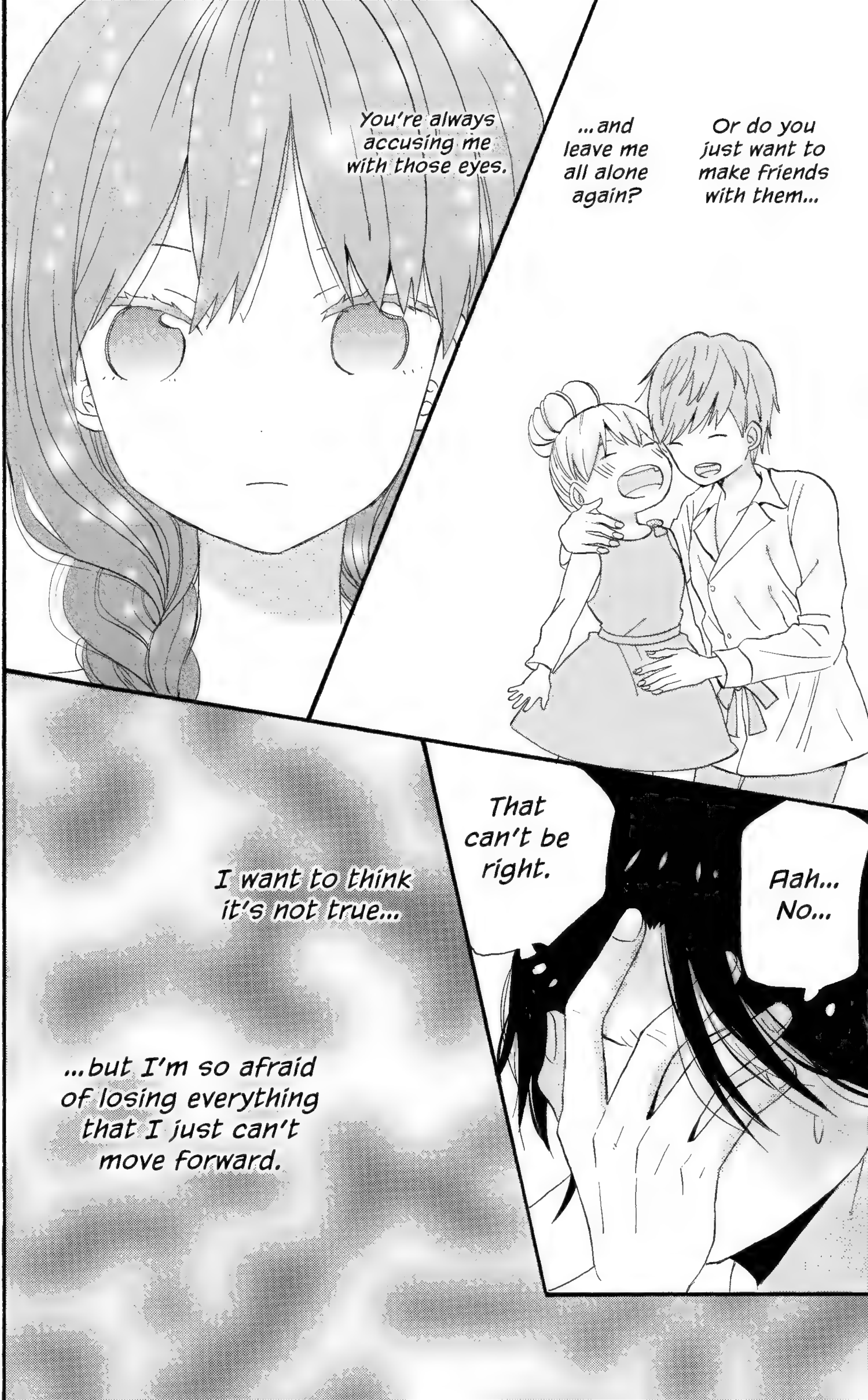

I was thinking it'd be better since he said I could stay longer than usual...
...but he hasn't looked at me once.
I wonder when it'd be a good time to talk to Dad about the trip idea.
There's a doggy where you live, right, Sis?
Yep.
キチリ FOLD
キチリ FOLD
Wow, that's cool!
Doggies are cool!
Uh... Um...! What if all of my family...
...and Hiro's family go on a trip together?

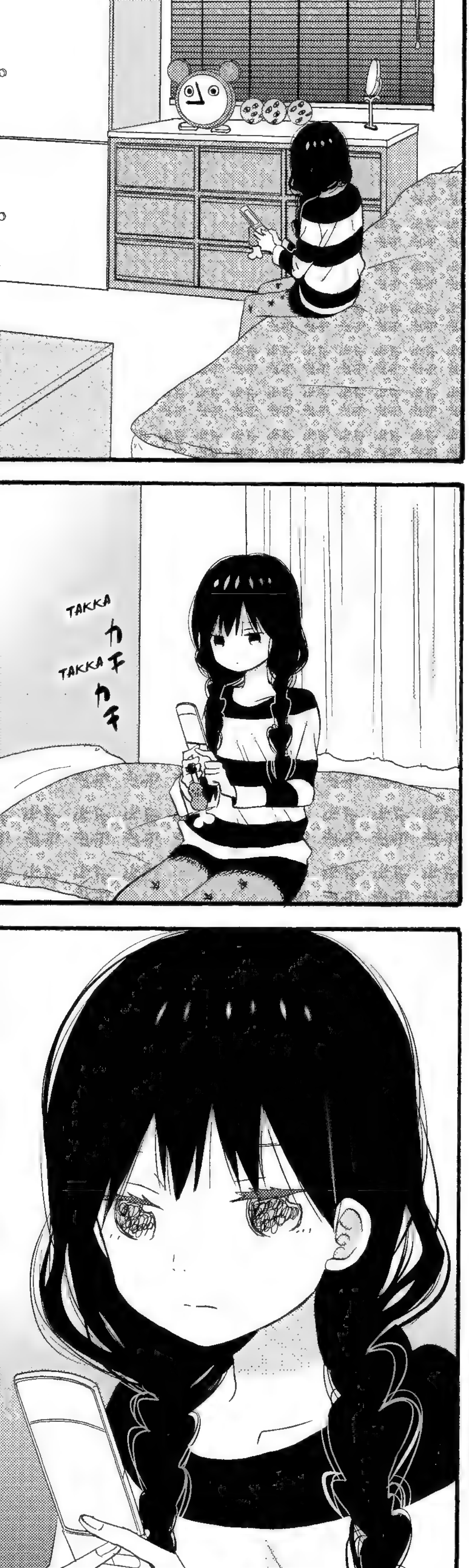

No good?
O-of course we'd go to a hotel we could take the dog to...! I was thinking about Kyoto... maybe.
...
I wanna go.
Wow, and the doggy can come, too? I bet you're excited, Yui!
Yeah! I wanna go on a trip with the doggy!


I wanna go!
I wanna go!
Hey, Dad, should we go?
Daddy, let's go!
...

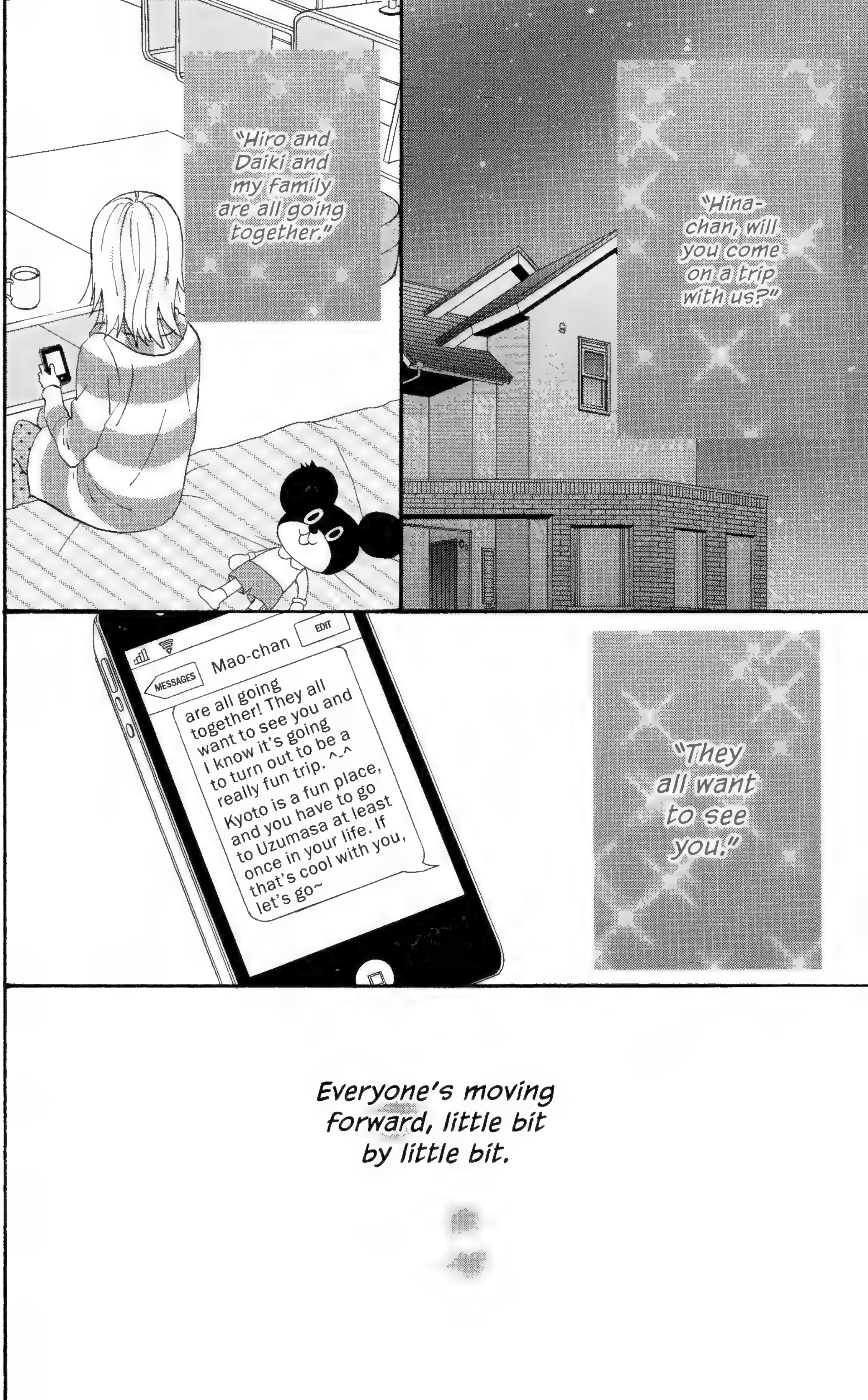

I guess if I can get off from work...
I'm sure you can! Let's go, Dad!
Mao-chan! Your dad says he can go, too!
Th-
Thanks, Dad.


...
I'm taking a bath.
Mao...
...why do you want to come back home?
I know you don't want to be near me.
Don't you hate me, though?
You already picked Nakamura-san's place, right?

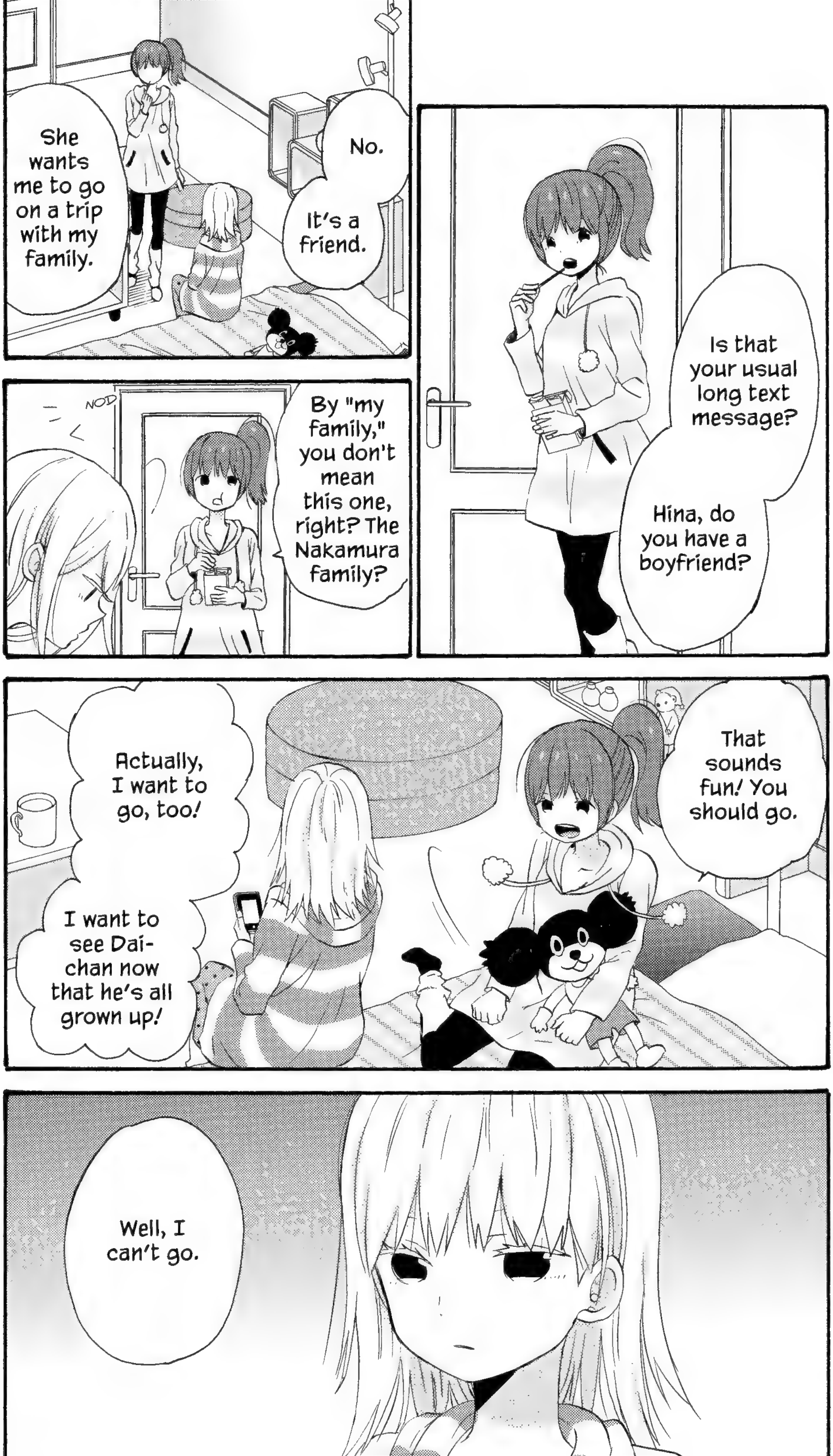

Or do you just want to make friends with them...
...and leave me all alone again?
You're always accusing me with those eyes.
Aah... No...
That can't be right.
I want to think it's not true...
...but I'm so afraid of losing everything that I just can't move forward.

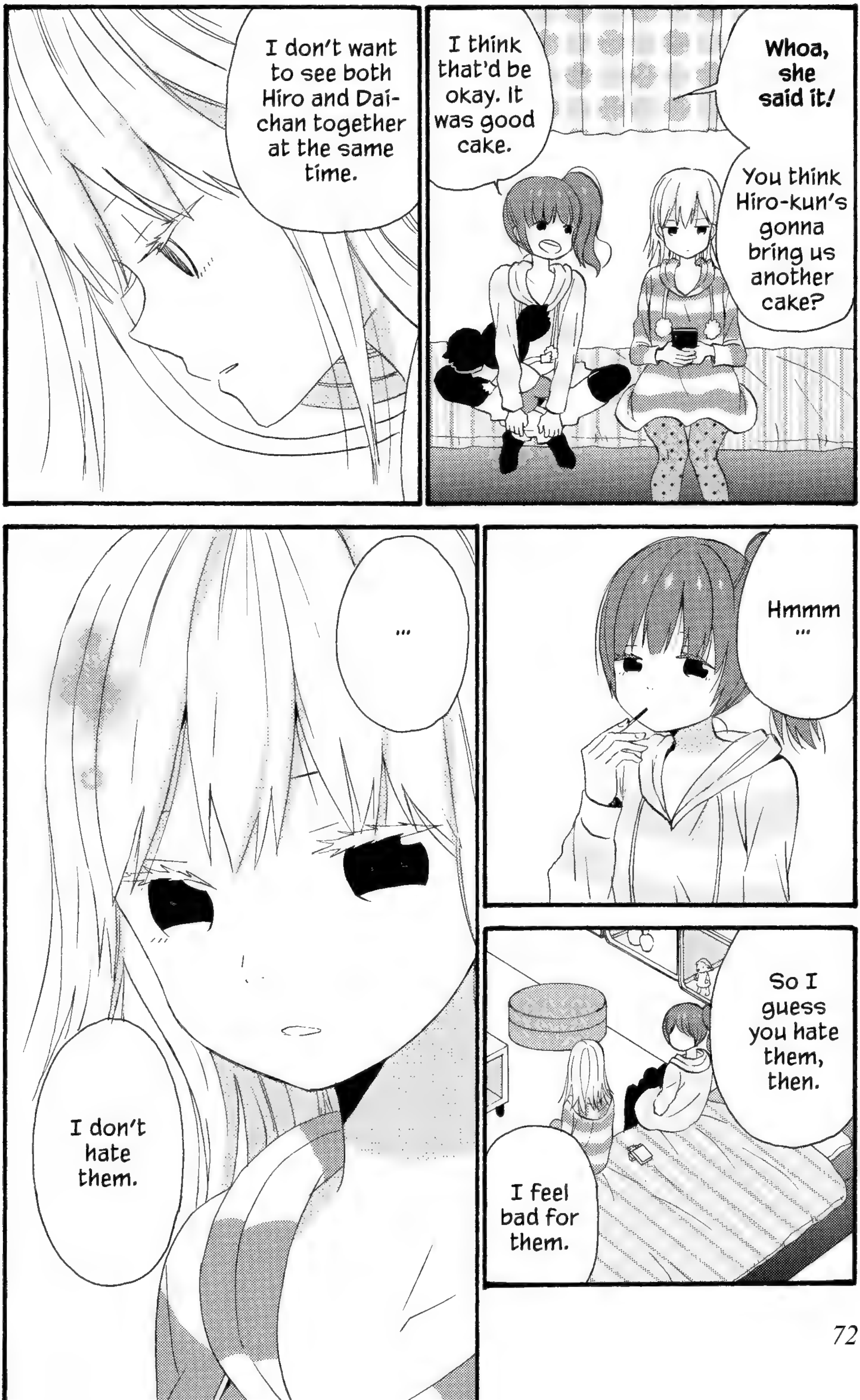

TAKKA カチ
TAKKA カチ

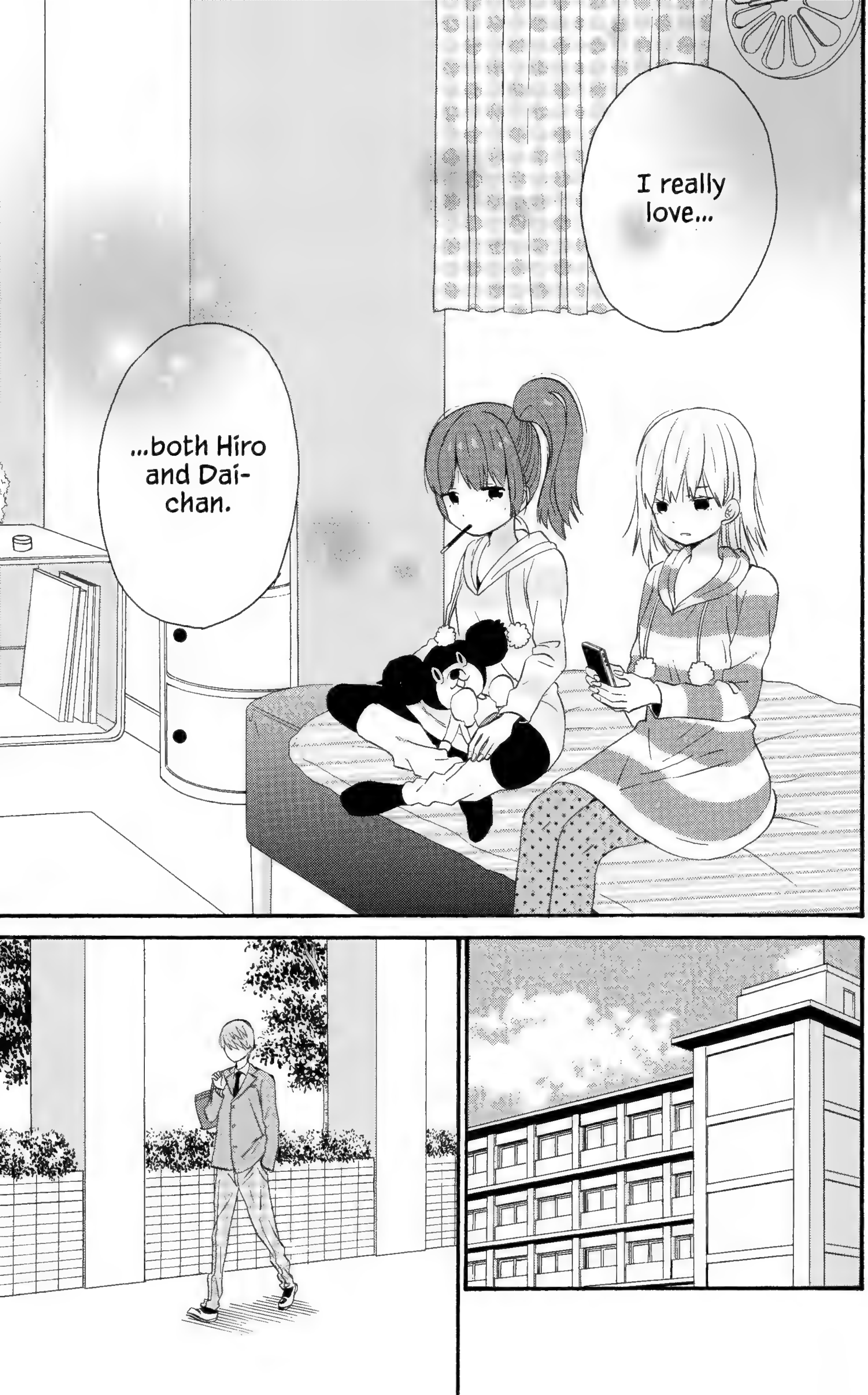
I don't know the right way to love Mao.

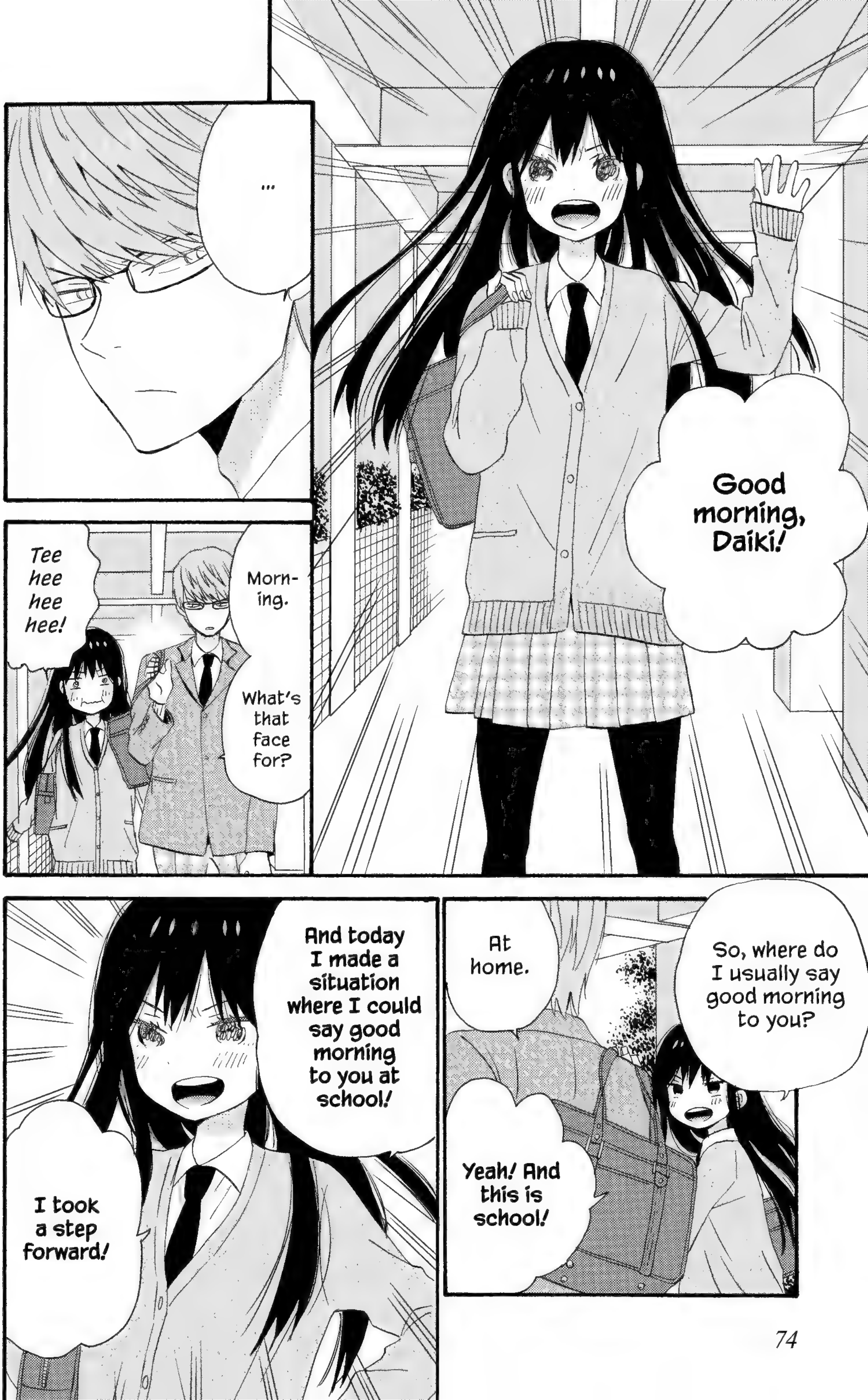

"Hina-chan, will you come on a trip with us?"
"Hiro and Daiki and my family are all going together."
"They all want to see you."
EDIT
Mao-chan
MESSAGES
Everyone's moving forward, little bit by little bit.

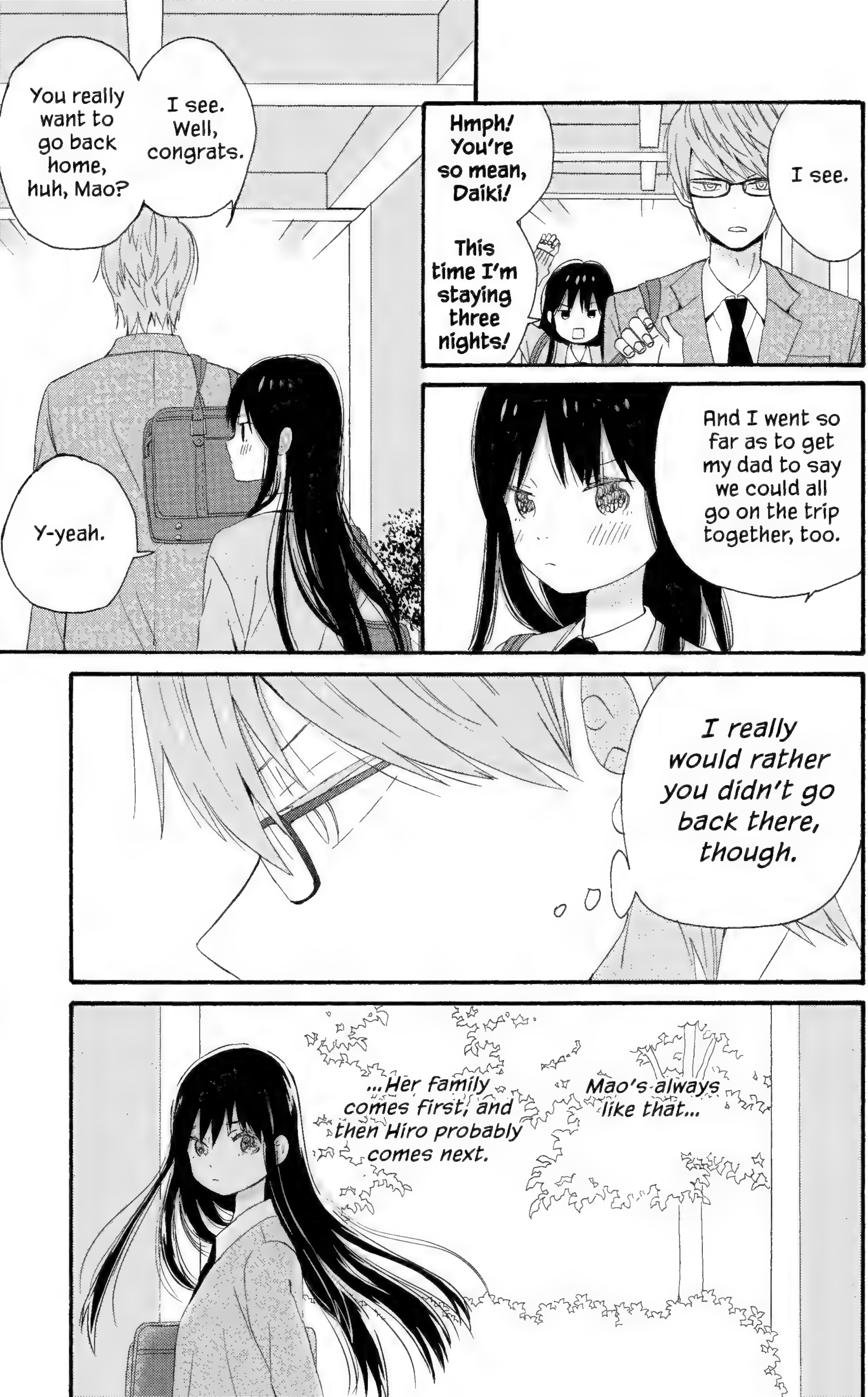
are all going together! They all want to see you and I know it's going to turn out to be a really fun trip. ^_^ Kyoto is a fun place, and you have to go to Uzumasa at least once in your life. If that's cool with you, let's go~

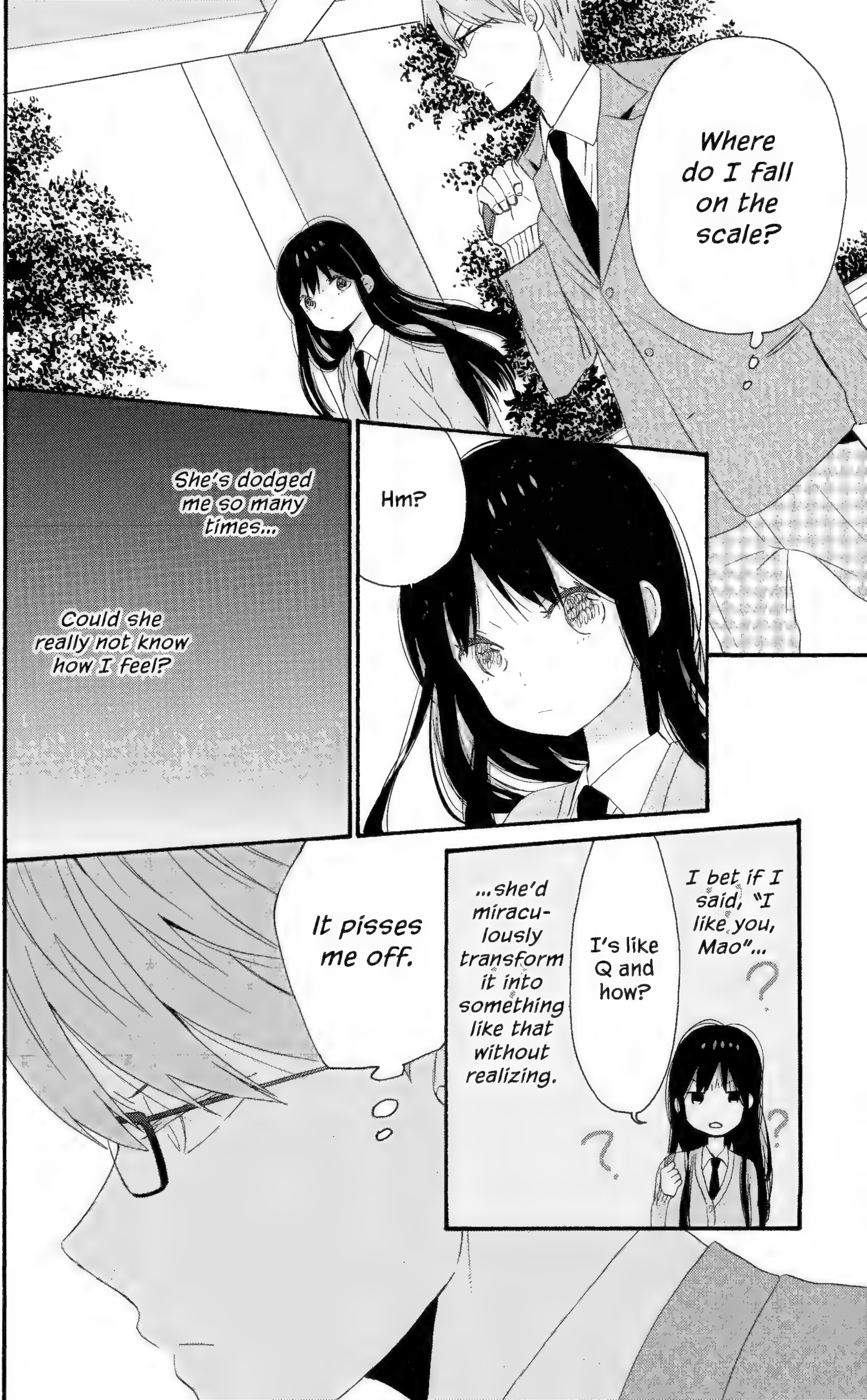

Is that your usual long text message?
Hina, do you have a boyfriend?
No.
It's a friend.
She wants me to go on a trip with my family.
By "my family," you don't mean this one, right? The Nakamura family?
NOD
That sounds fun! You should go.
Actually, I want to go, too!
I want to see Dai-chan now that he's all grown up!
Well, I can't go.

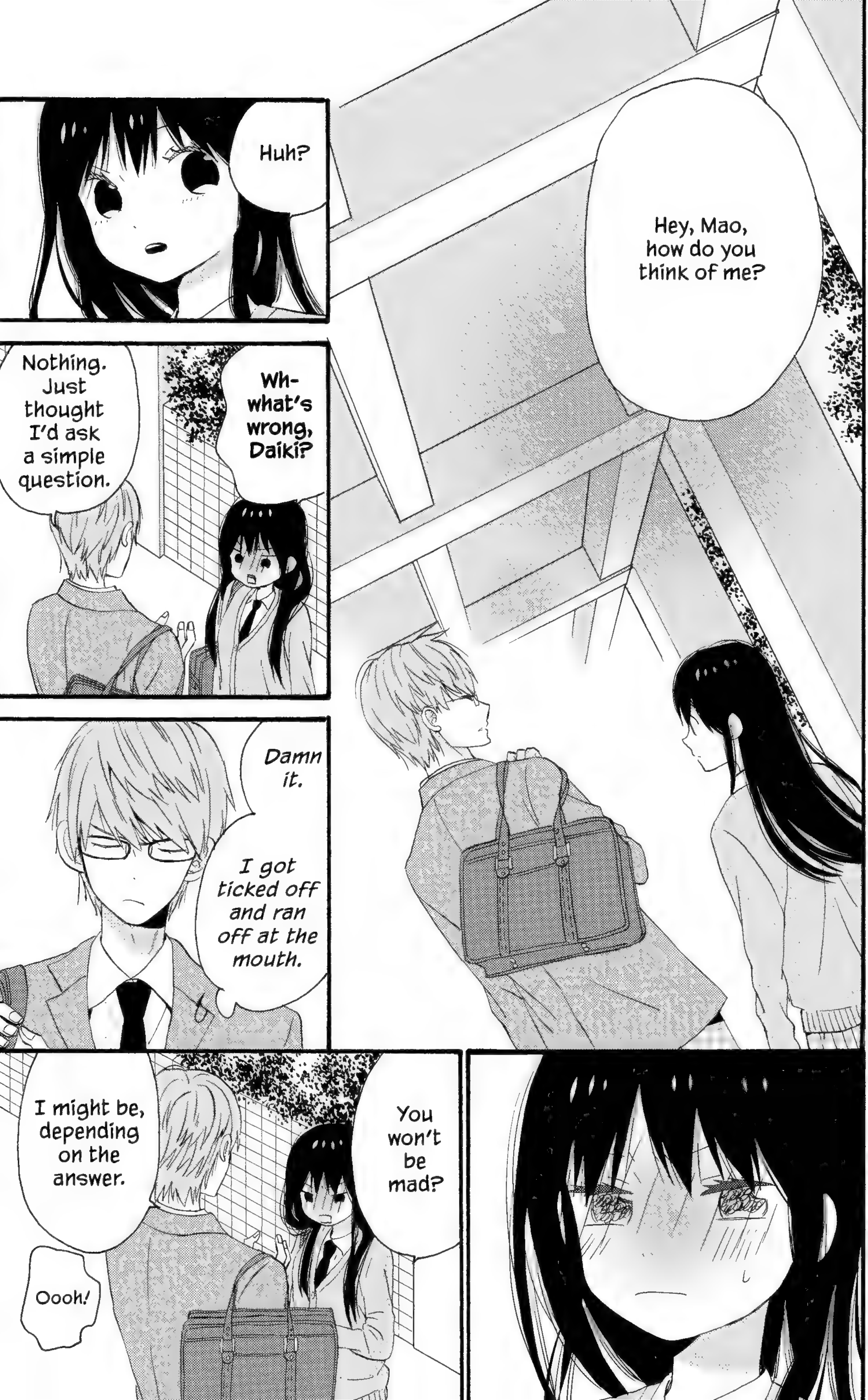

Whoa, she said it!
You think Hiro-kun's gonna bring us another cake?
I think that'd be okay. It was good cake.
I don't want to see both Hiro and Dai-chan together at the same time.
Hmmm ...
...
So I guess you hate them, then.
I don't hate them.
I feel bad for them.

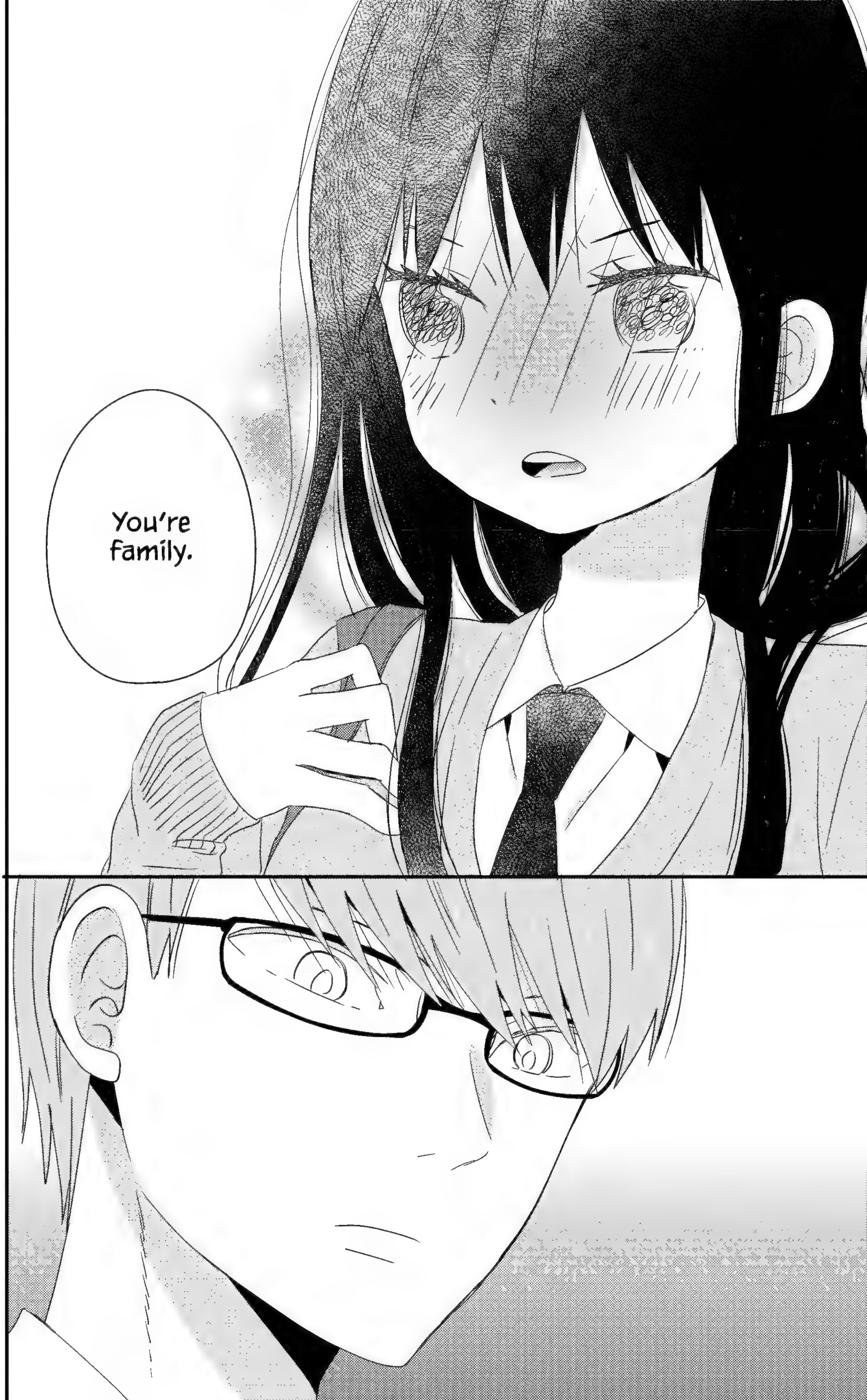

I really love...
...both Hiro and Dai-chan.

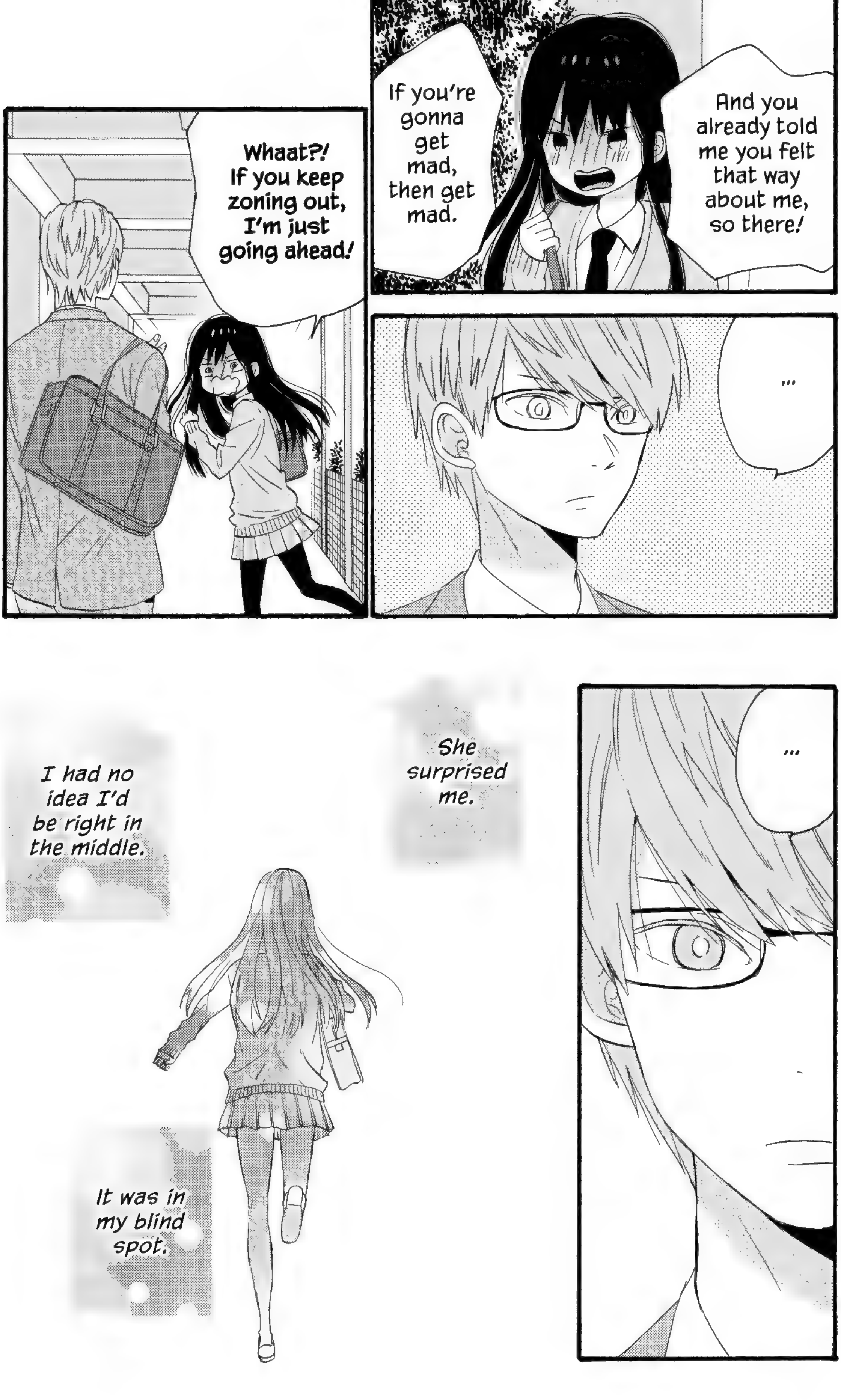

Good morning, Daiki!
...
Morning.
What's that face for?
Tee hee hee hee!
So, where do I usually say good morning to you?
At home.
Yeah! And this is school!
And today I made a situation where I could say good morning to you at school!
I took a step forward!

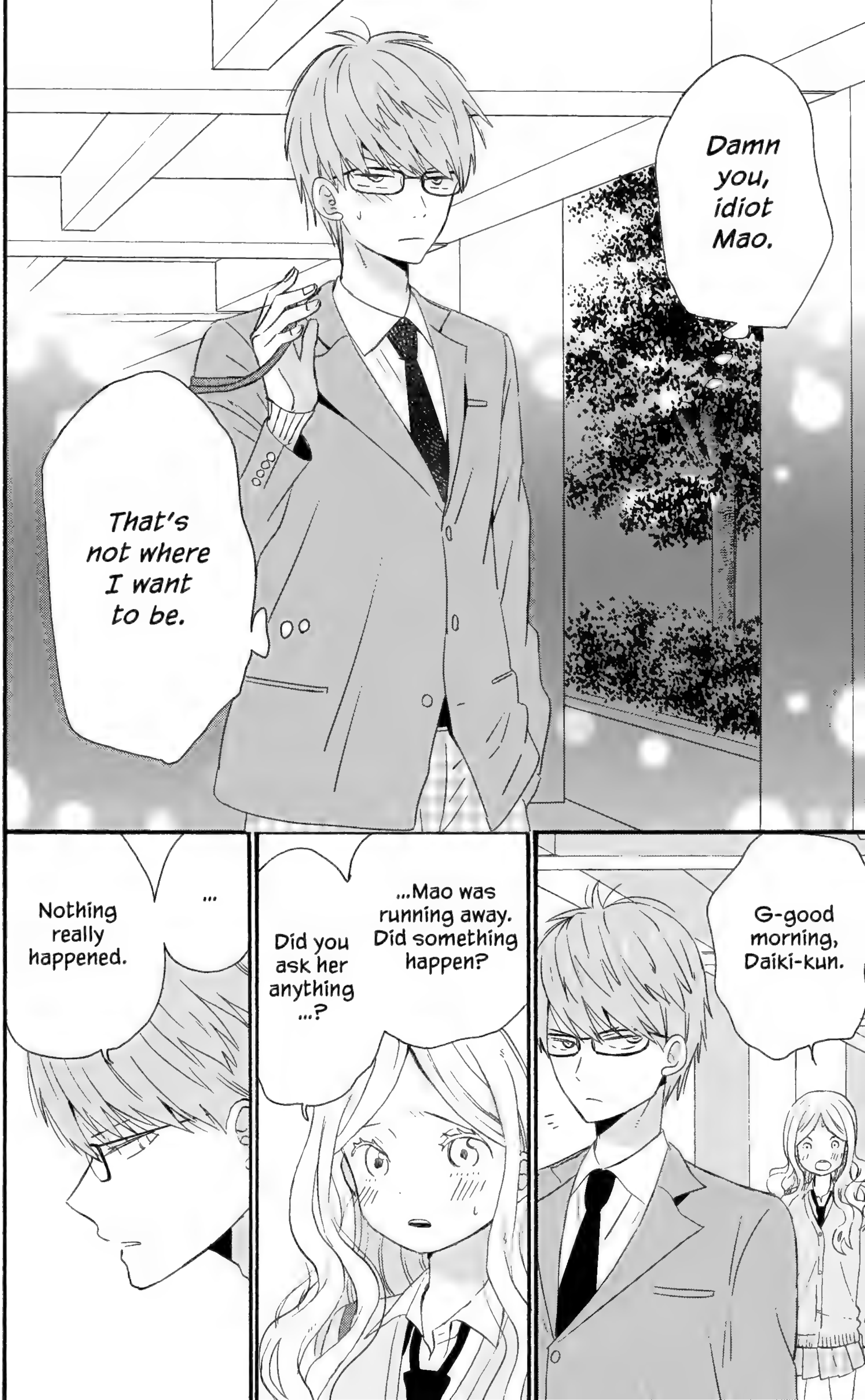

You really want to go back home, huh, Mao?
I see. Well, congrats.
Y-yeah.
Hmph! You're so mean, Daiki!
This time I'm staying three nights!
I see.
And I went so far as to get my dad to say we could all go on the trip together, too.
I really would rather you didn't go back there, though.
...Her family comes first, and then Hiro probably comes next.
Mao's always like that...

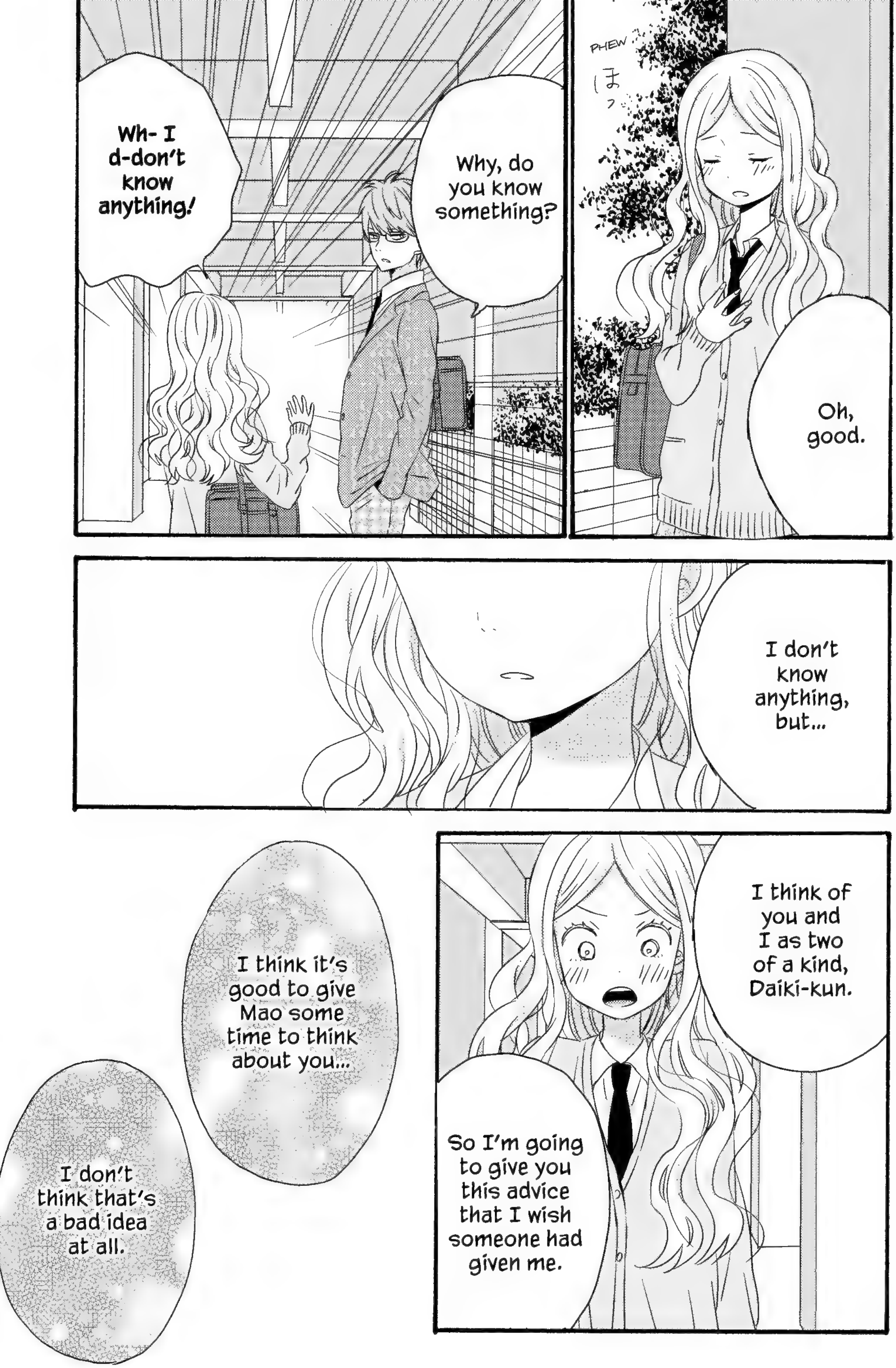

Where do I fall on the scale?
Hm?
She's dodged me so many times...
Could she really not know how I feel?
I bet if I said, "I like you, Mao"...
I's like Q and how?
...she'd miraculously transform it into something like that without realizing.
It pisses me off.

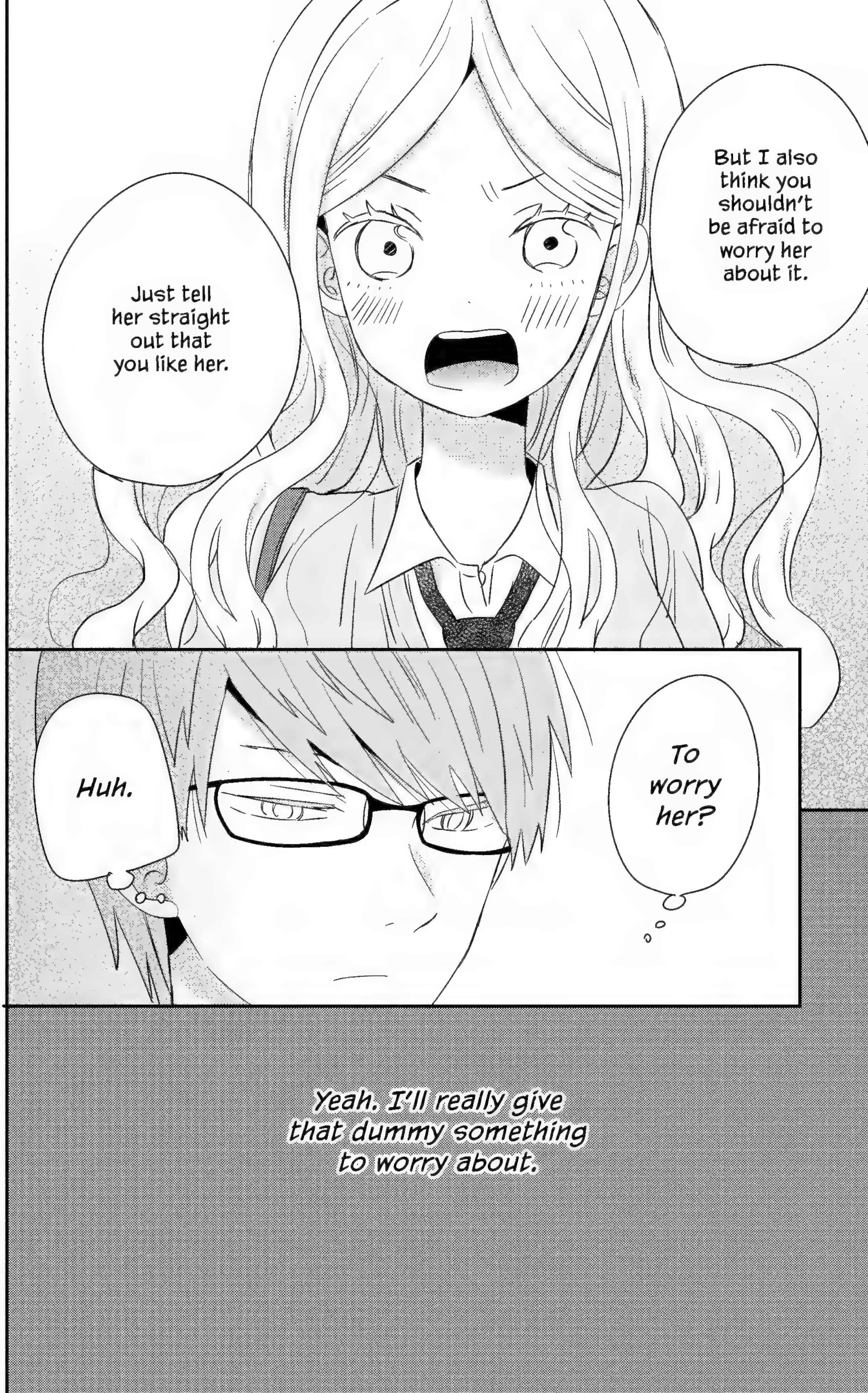

Hey, Mao, how do you think of me?
Huh?
Wh- what's wrong, Daiki?
Nothing. Just thought I'd ask a simple question.
Damn it.
I got ticked off and ran off at the mouth.
You won't be mad?
I might be, depending on the answer.
Oooh!

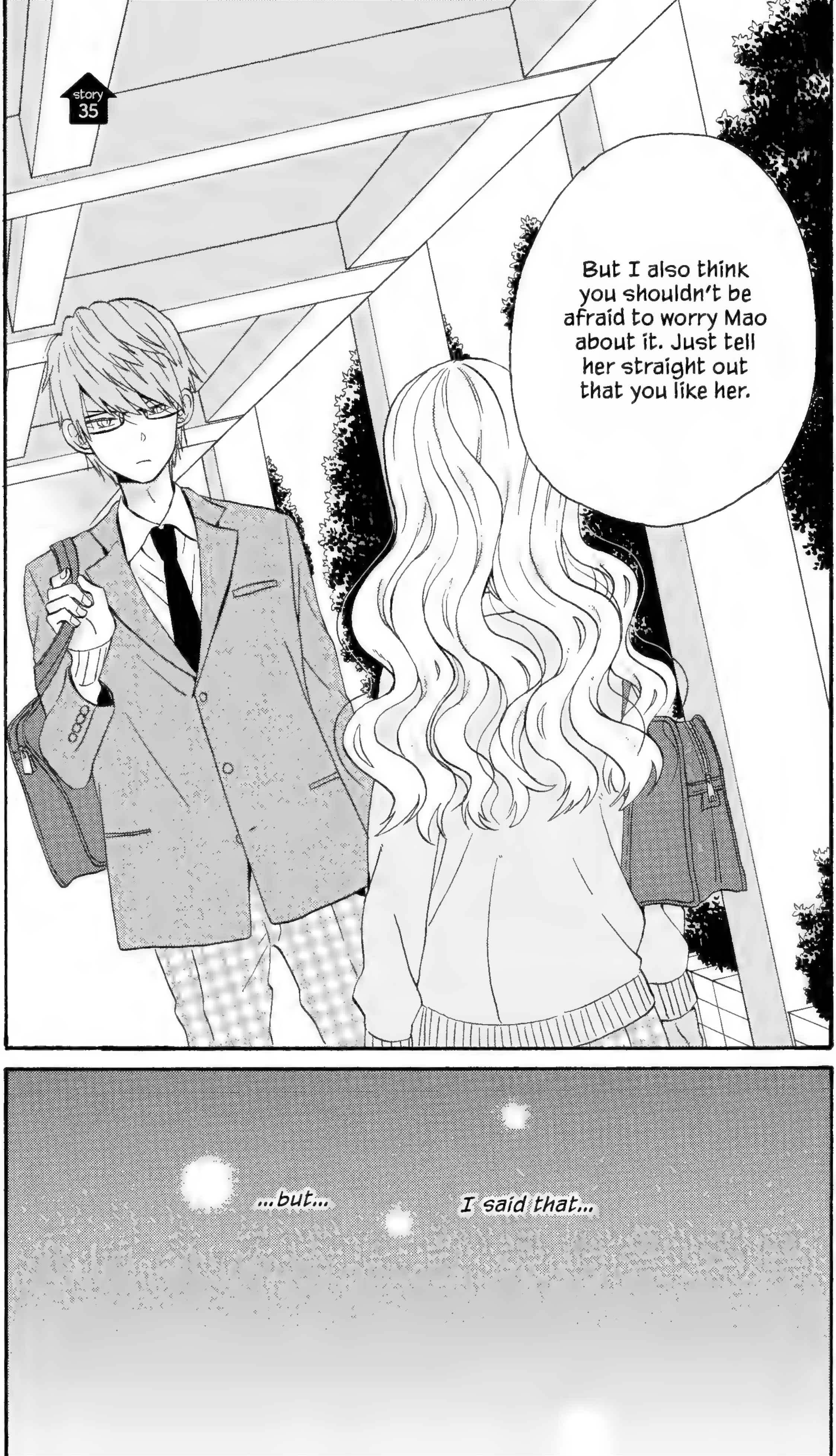

You're family.

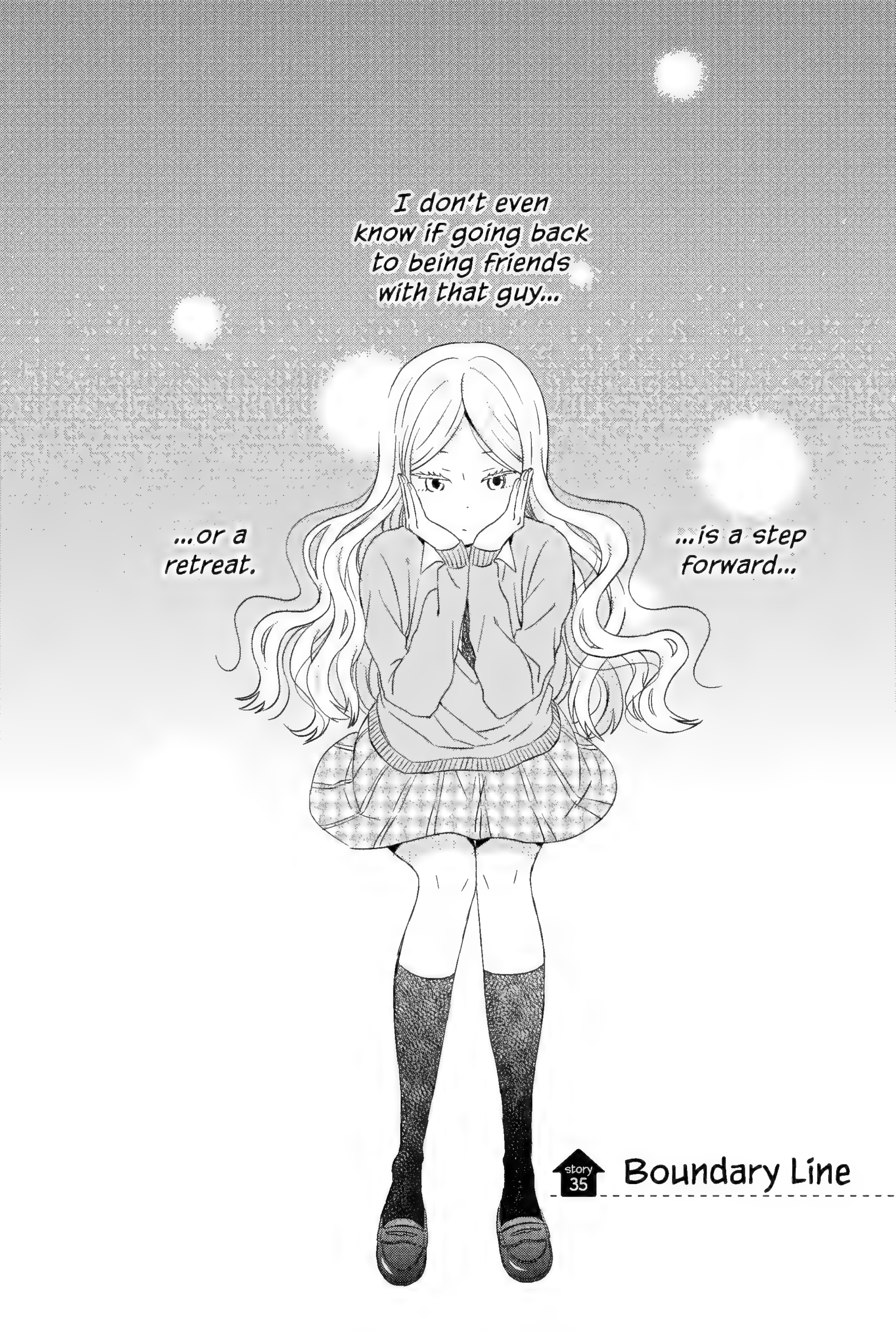

If you're gonna get mad, then get mad.
And you already told me you felt that way about me, so there!
...
Whaaat?! If you keep zoning out, I'm just going ahead!
...
She surprised me.
I had no idea I'd be right in the middle.
It was in my blind spot.


Damn you, idiot Mao.
That's not where I want to be.
G-good morning, Daiki-kun.
...Mao was running away. Did something happen?
Did you ask her anything ...?
...
Nothing really happened.

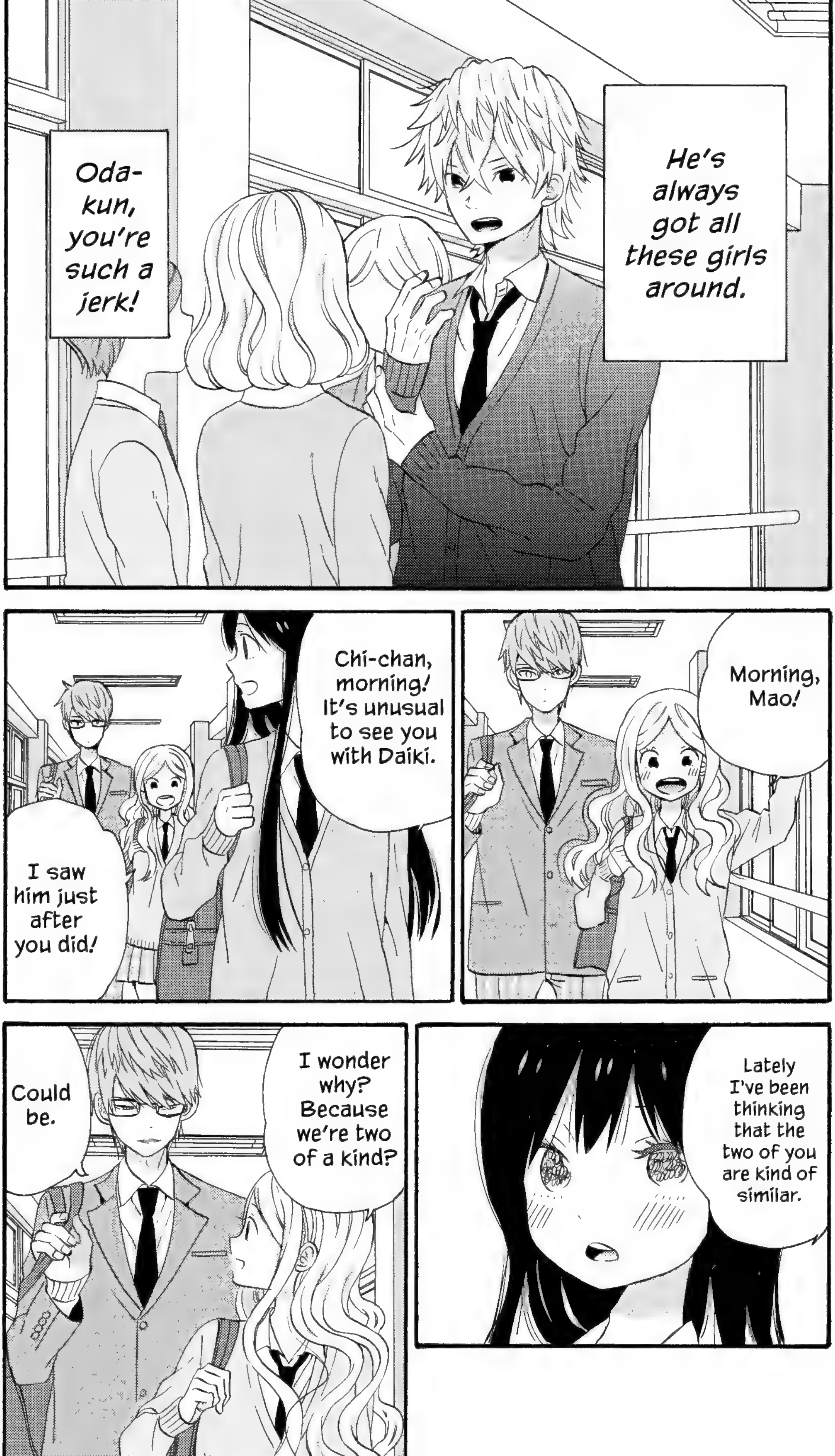

Why, do you know something?
Wh- I d-don't know anything!
PHEW
ほっ
Oh, good.
I don't know anything, but...
I think of you and I as two of a kind, Daiki-kun.
So I'm going to give you this advice that I wish someone had given me.
I think it's good to give Mao some time to think about you...
I don't think that's a bad idea at all.

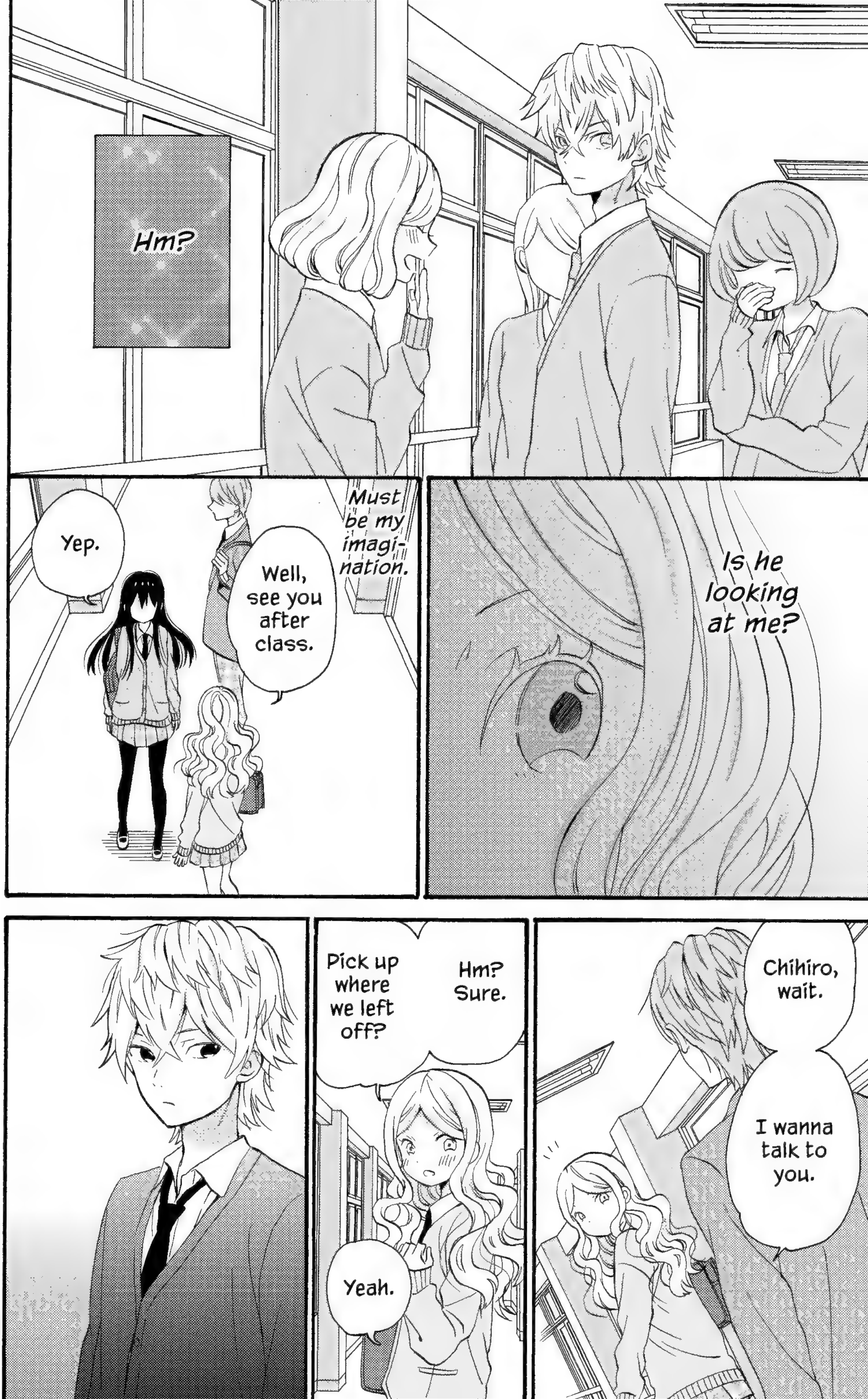

Just tell her straight out that you like her.
But I also think you shouldn't be afraid to worry her about it.
Huh.
To worry her?
Yeah. I'll really give that dummy something to worry about.

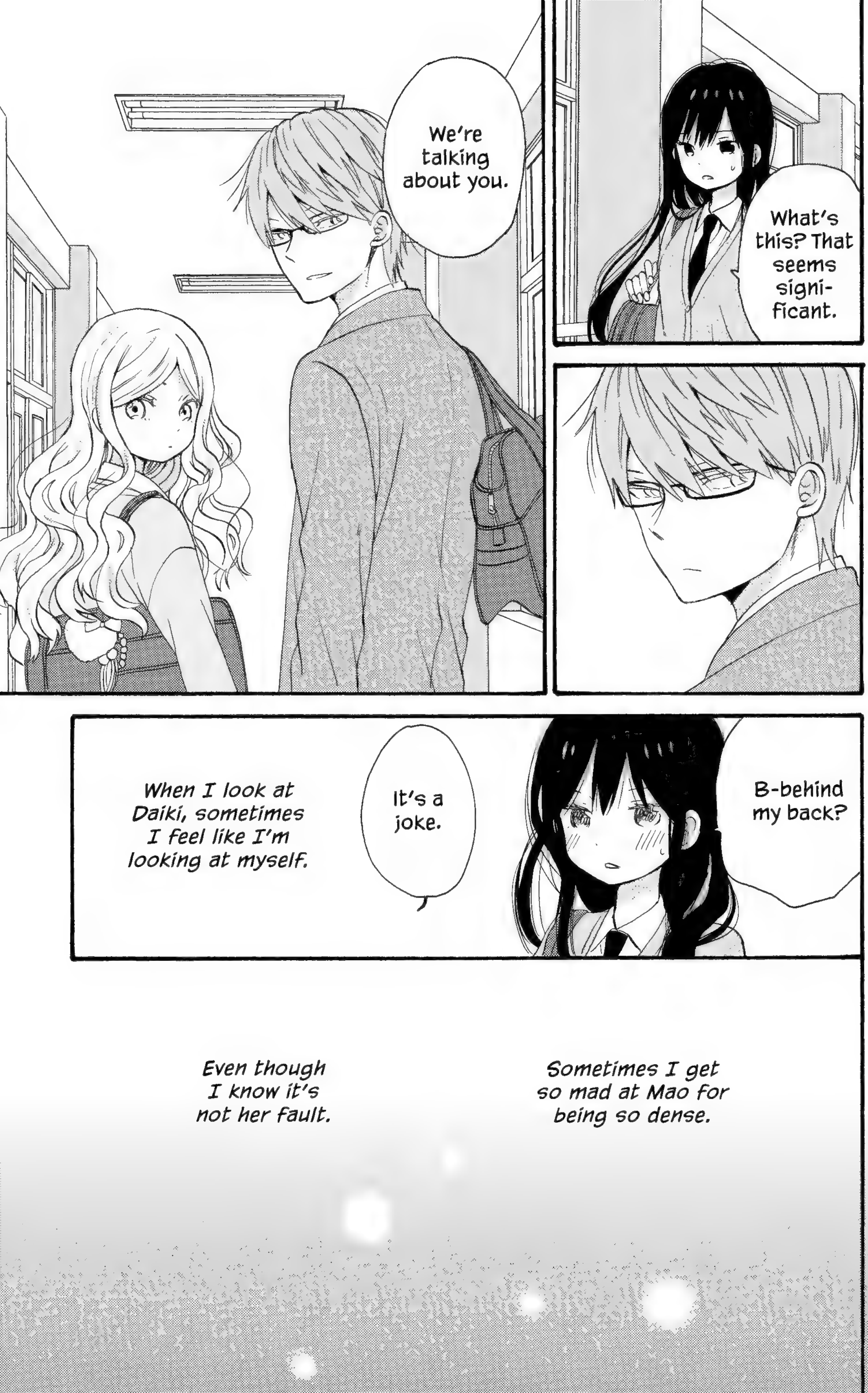

story 35
But I also think you shouldn't be afraid to worry Mao about it. Just tell her straight out that you like her.
I said that...
...but...

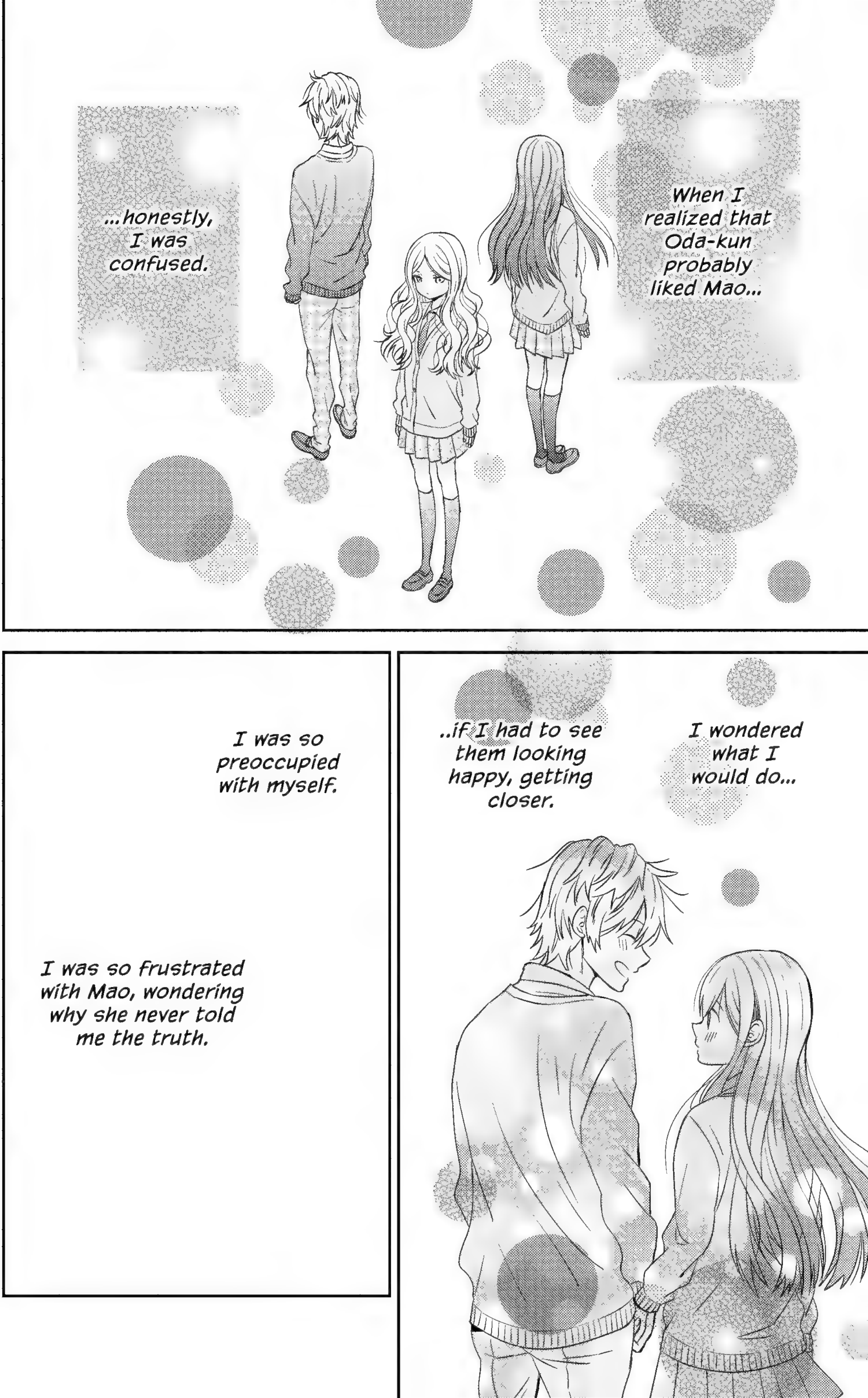

I don't even know if going back to being friends with that guy...
...is a step forward...
...or a retreat.

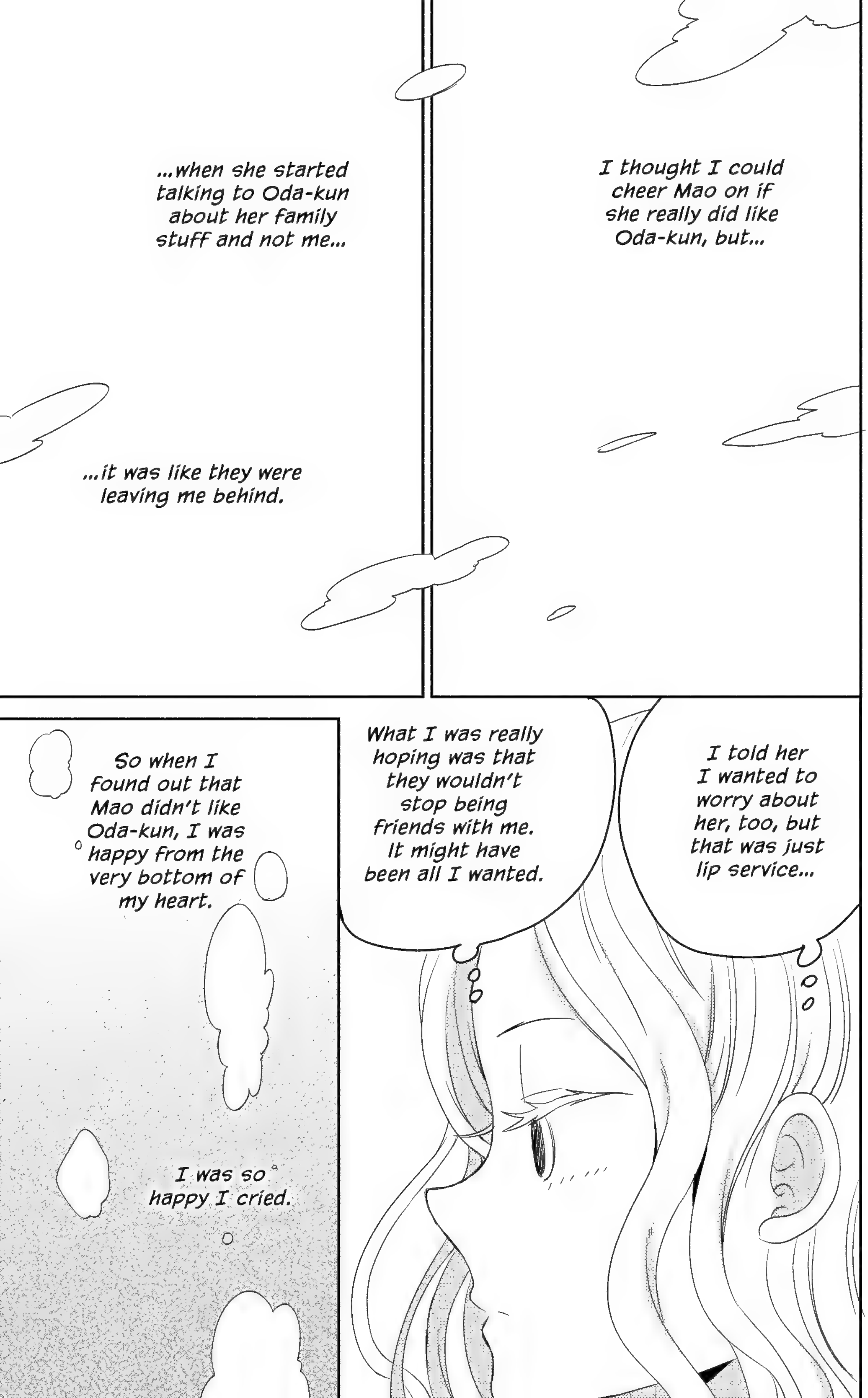
story 35 Boundary Line

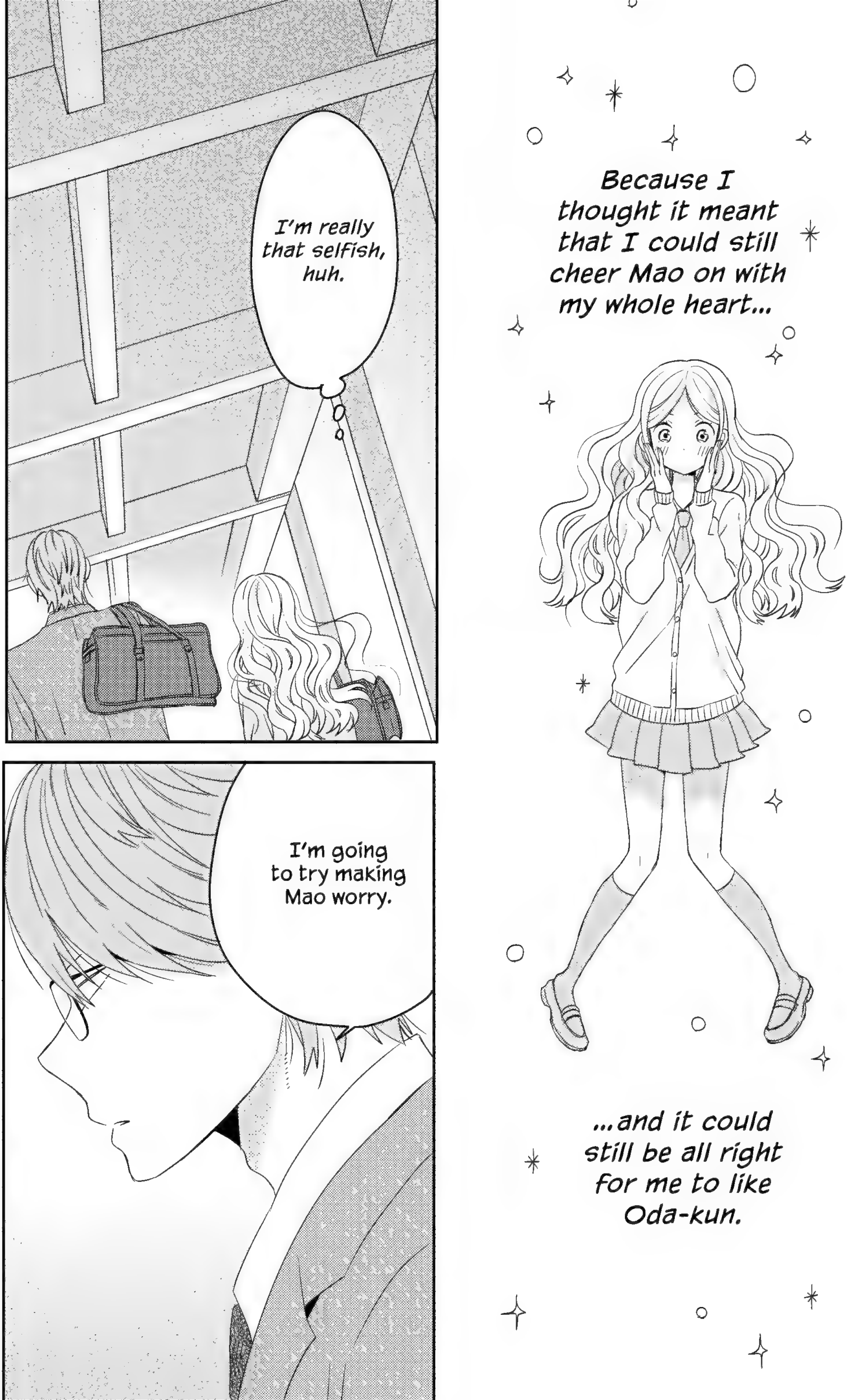

He's always got all these girls around.
Oda-kun, you're such a jerk!
Morning, Mao!
Chi-chan, morning! It's unusual to see you with Daiki.
I saw him just after you did!
Lately I've been thinking that the two of you are kind of similar.
I wonder why? Because we're two of a kind?
Could be.

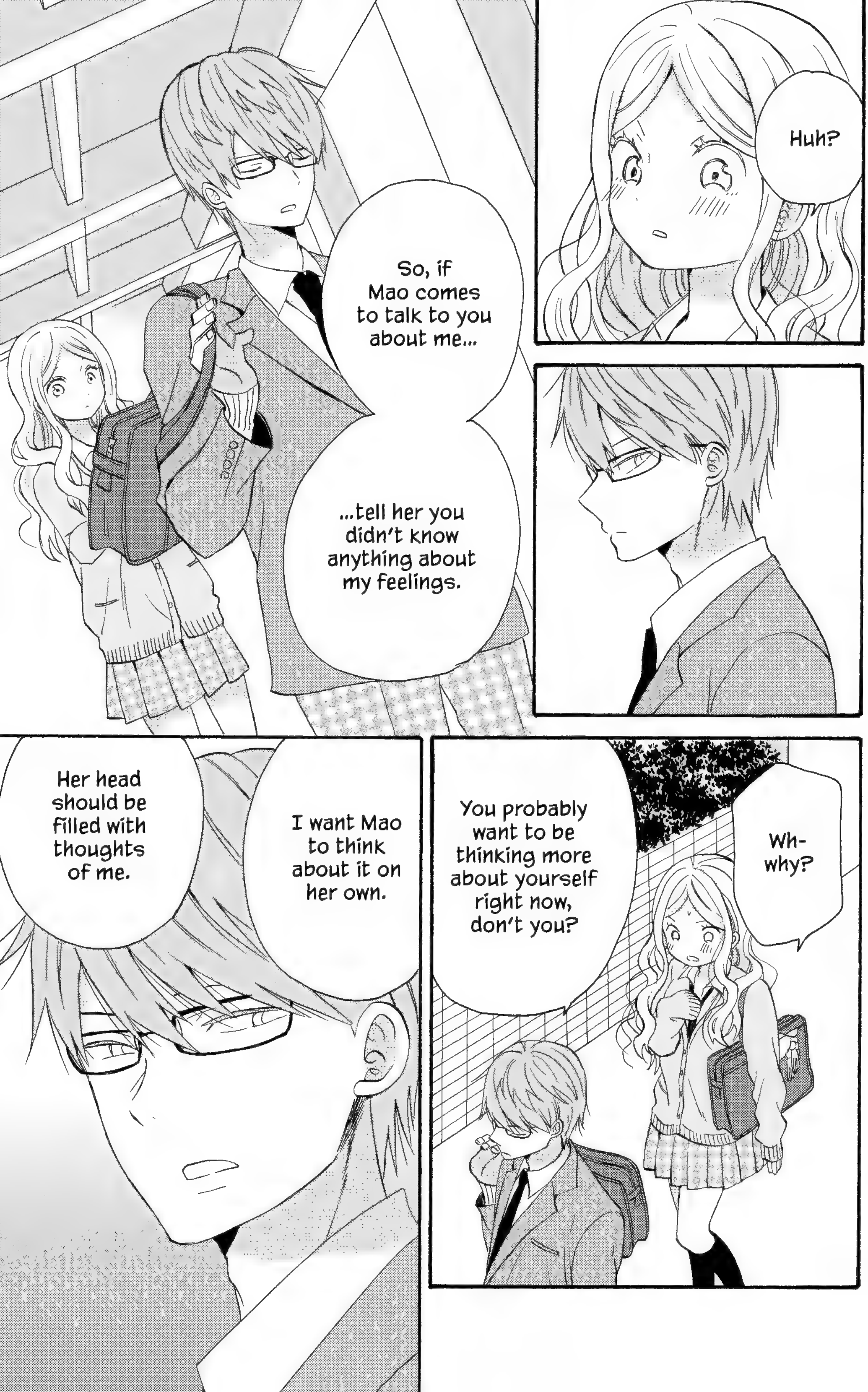

Hm?
Is he looking at me?
Must be my imagination.
Well, see you after class.
Yep.
Chihiro, wait.
I wanna talk to you.
Hm? Sure.
Pick up where we left off?
Yeah.

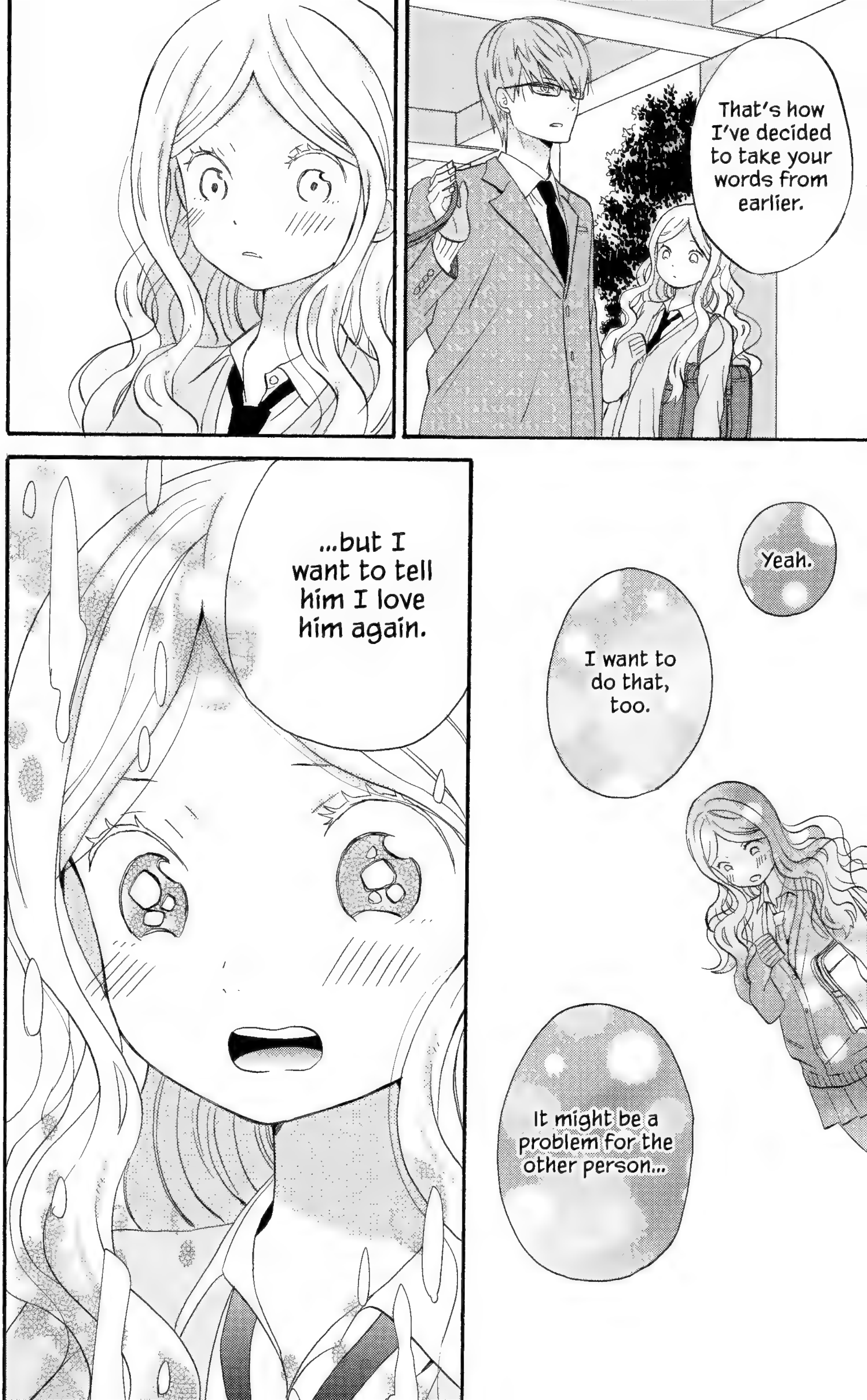

What's this? That seems significant.
We're talking about you.
B-behind my back?
It's a joke.
When I look at Daiki, sometimes I feel like I'm looking at myself.
Sometimes I get so mad at Mao for being so dense.
Even though I know it's not her fault.

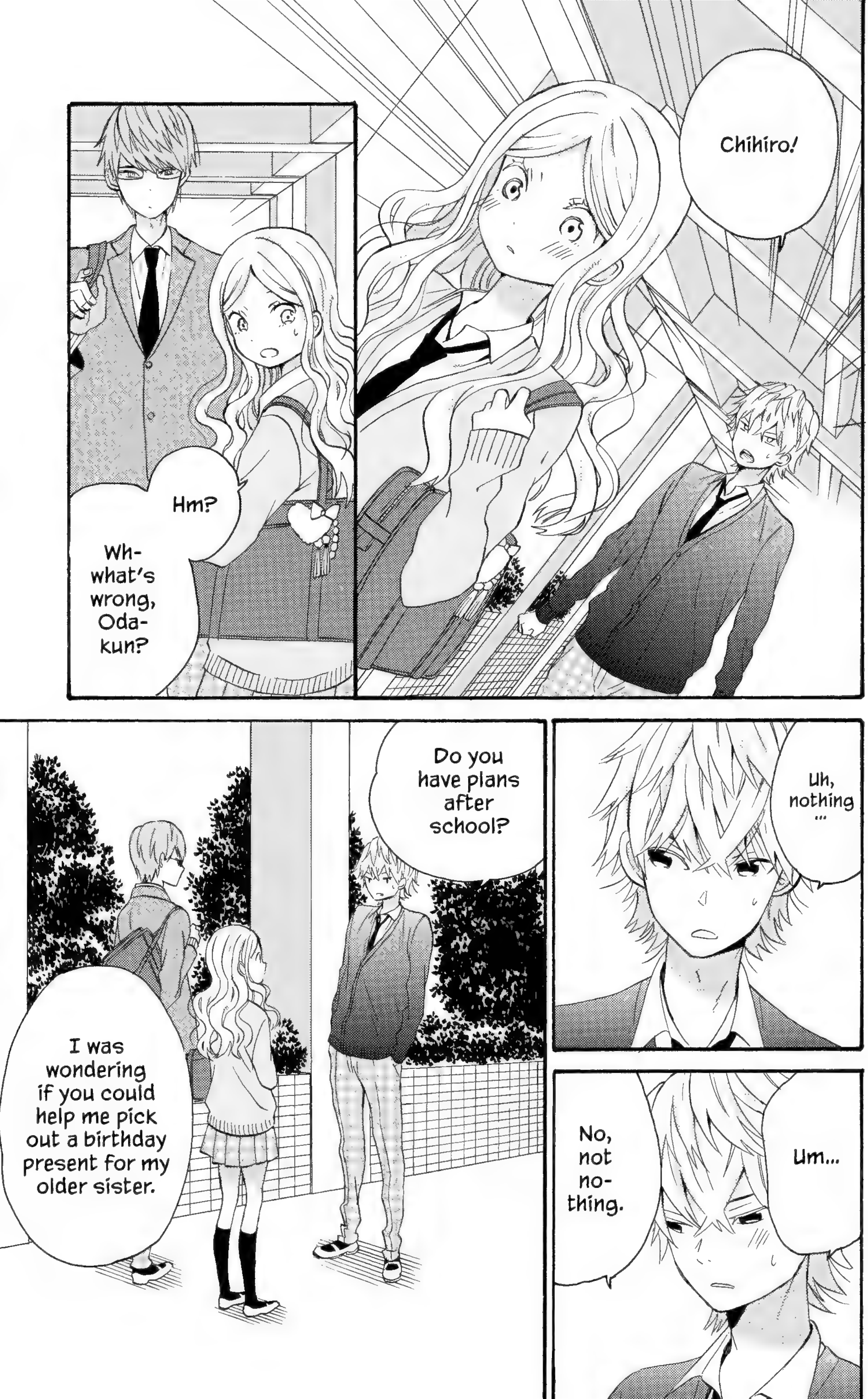

When I realized that Oda-kun probably liked Mao...
...honestly, I was confused.
I wondered what I would do...
..if I had to see them looking happy, getting closer.
I was so preoccupied with myself.
I was so frustrated with Mao, wondering why she never told me the truth.

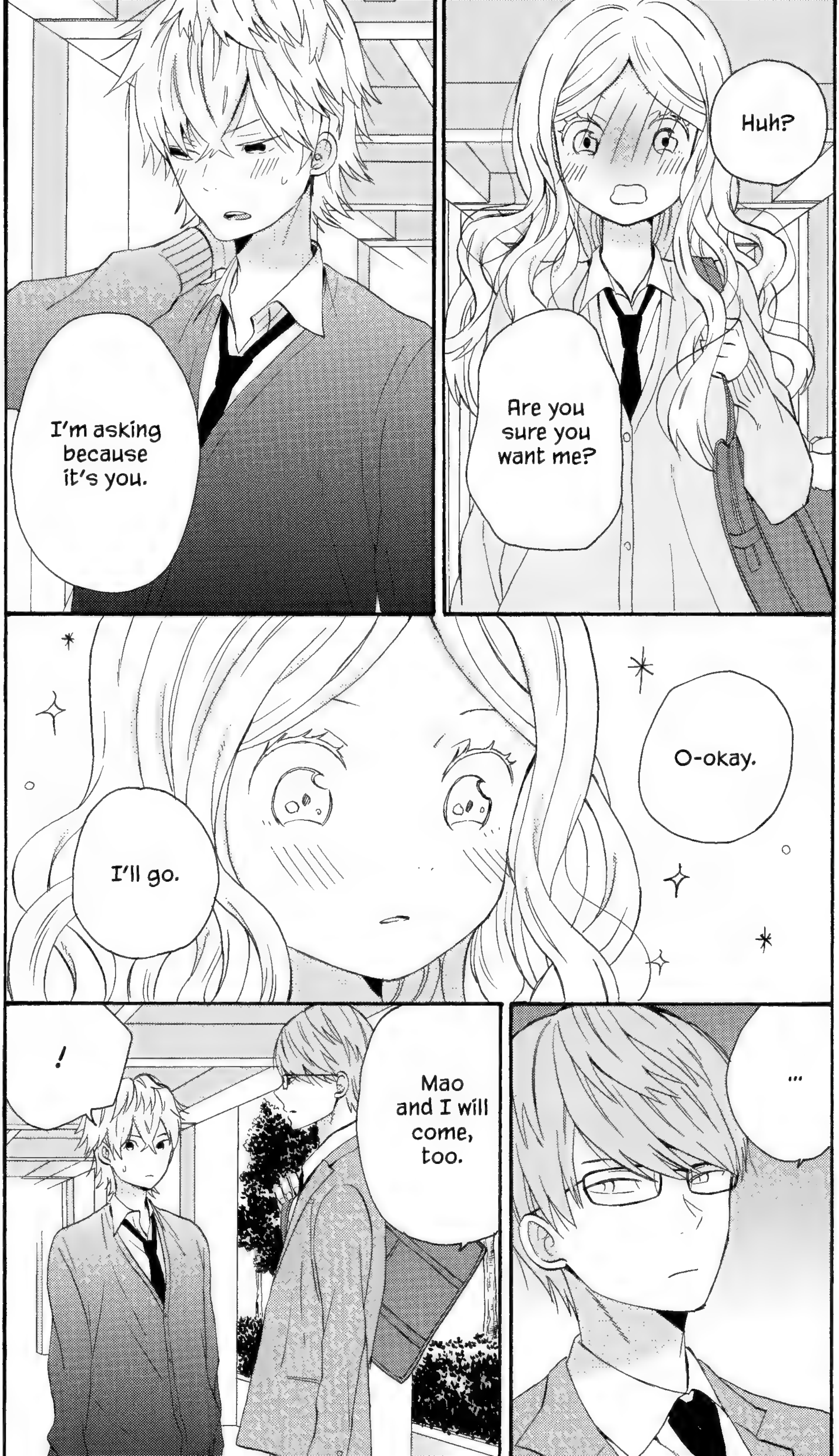

I thought I could cheer Mao on if she really did like Oda-kun, but...
...when she started talking to Oda-kun about her family stuff and not me...
...it was like they were leaving me behind.
I told her I wanted to worry about her, too, but that was just lip service...
What I was really hoping was that they wouldn't stop being friends with me. It might have been all I wanted.
So when I found out that Mao didn't like Oda-kun, I was happy from the very bottom of my heart.
I was so happy I cried.

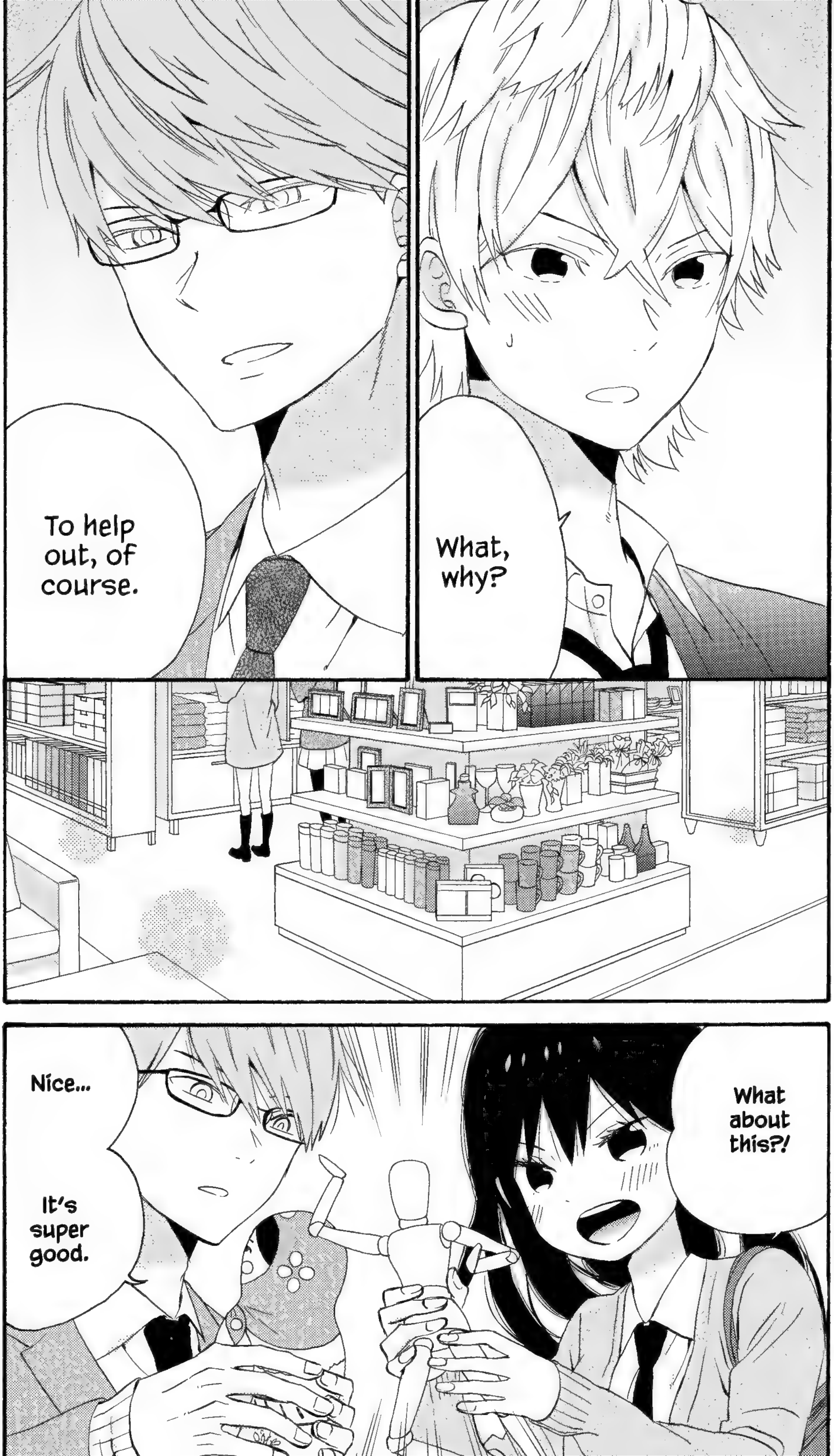

Because I thought it meant that I could still cheer Mao on with my whole heart...
...and it could still be all right for me to like Oda-kun.
I'm really that selfish, huh.
I'm going to try making Mao worry.

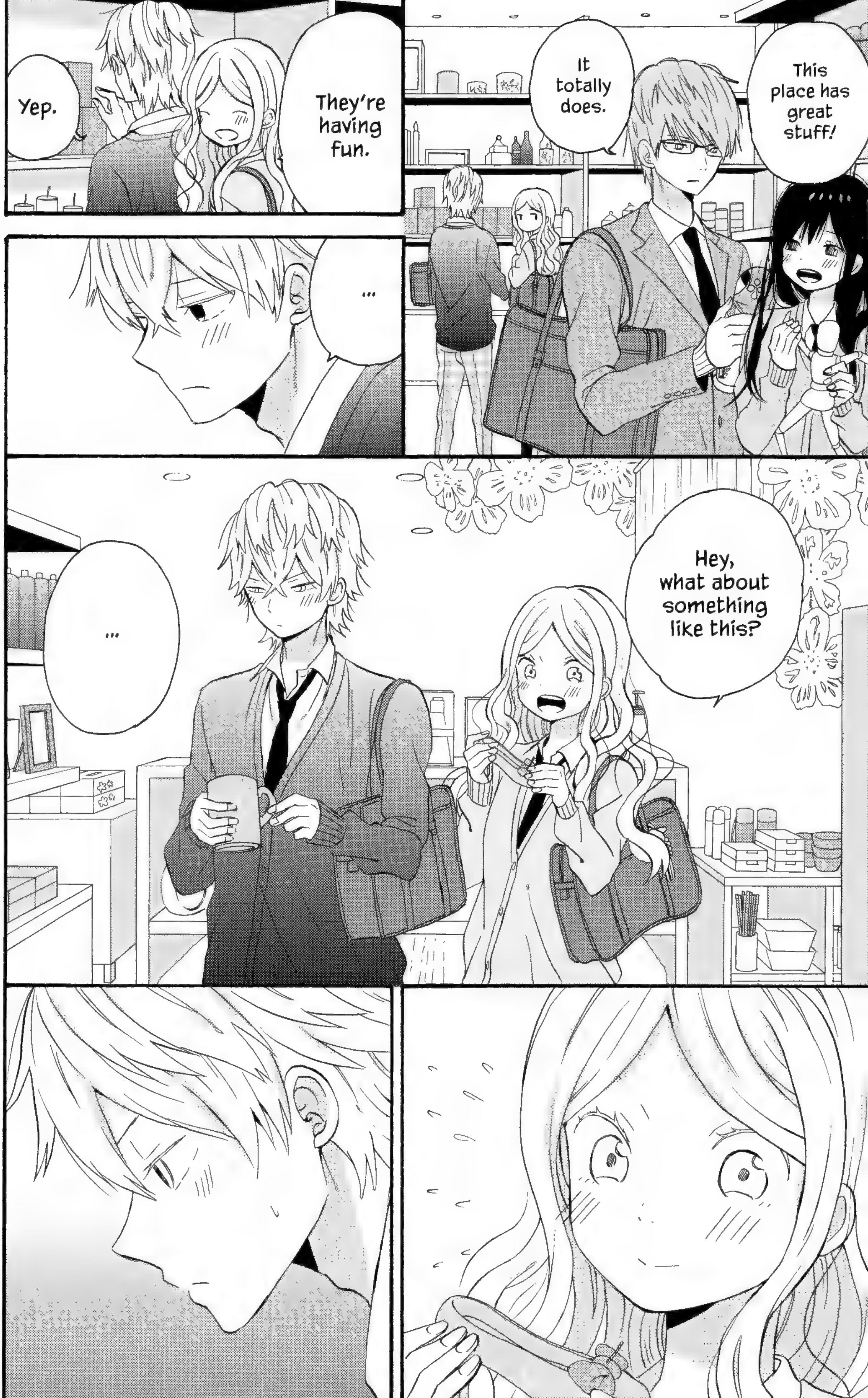

So, if Mao comes to talk to you about me...
...tell her you didn't know anything about my feelings.
Huh?
Wh- why?
You probably want to be thinking more about yourself right now, don't you?
I want Mao to think about it on her own.
Her head should be filled with thoughts of me.

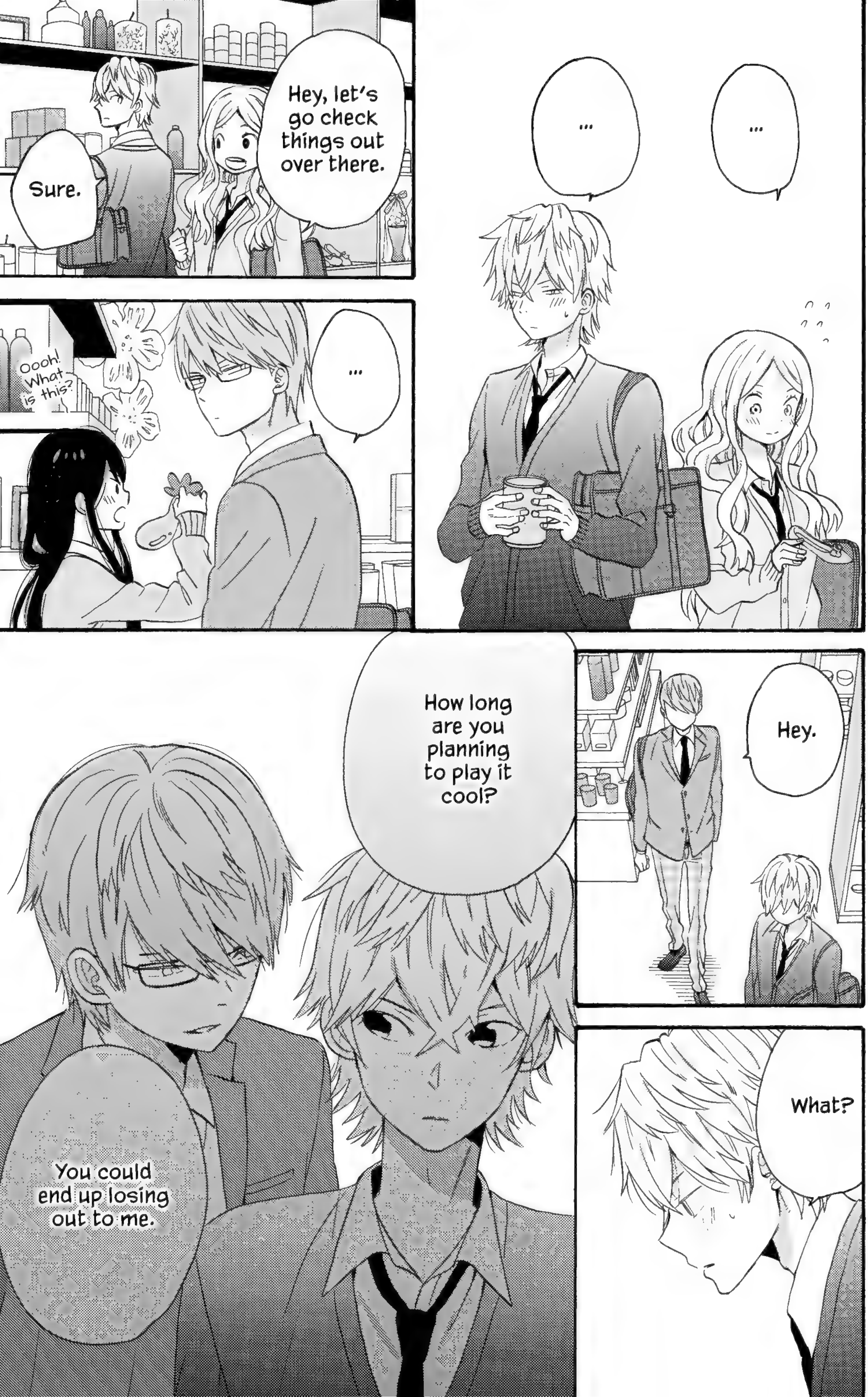

That's how I've decided to take your words from earlier.
Yeah.
I want to do that, too.
It might be a problem for the other person...
...but I want to tell him I love him again.

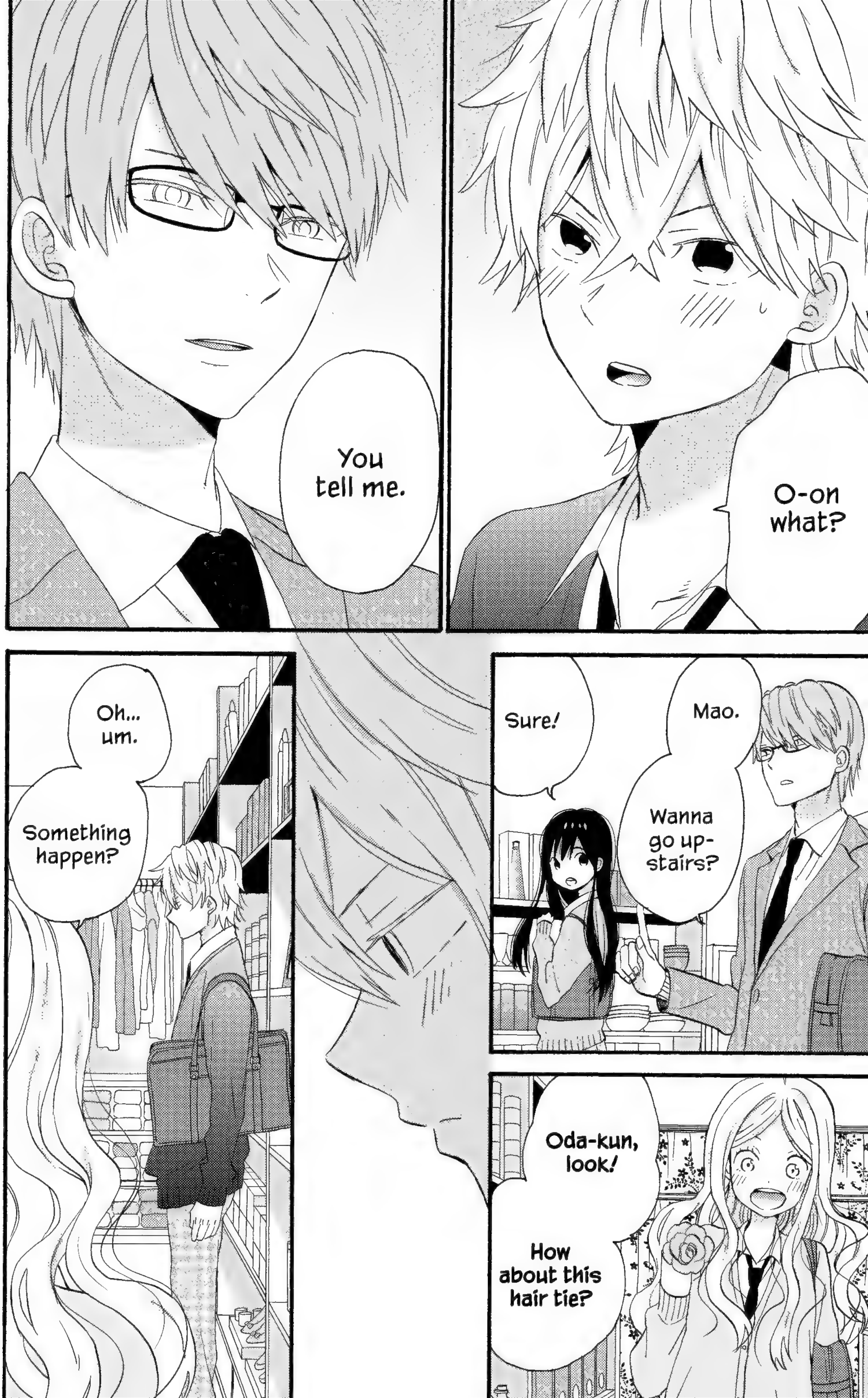

Chihiro!
Hm?
Wh-what's wrong, Oda-kun?
Do you have plans after school?
I was wondering if you could help me pick out a birthday present for my older sister.
Uh, nothing ...
Um...
No, not no-thing.

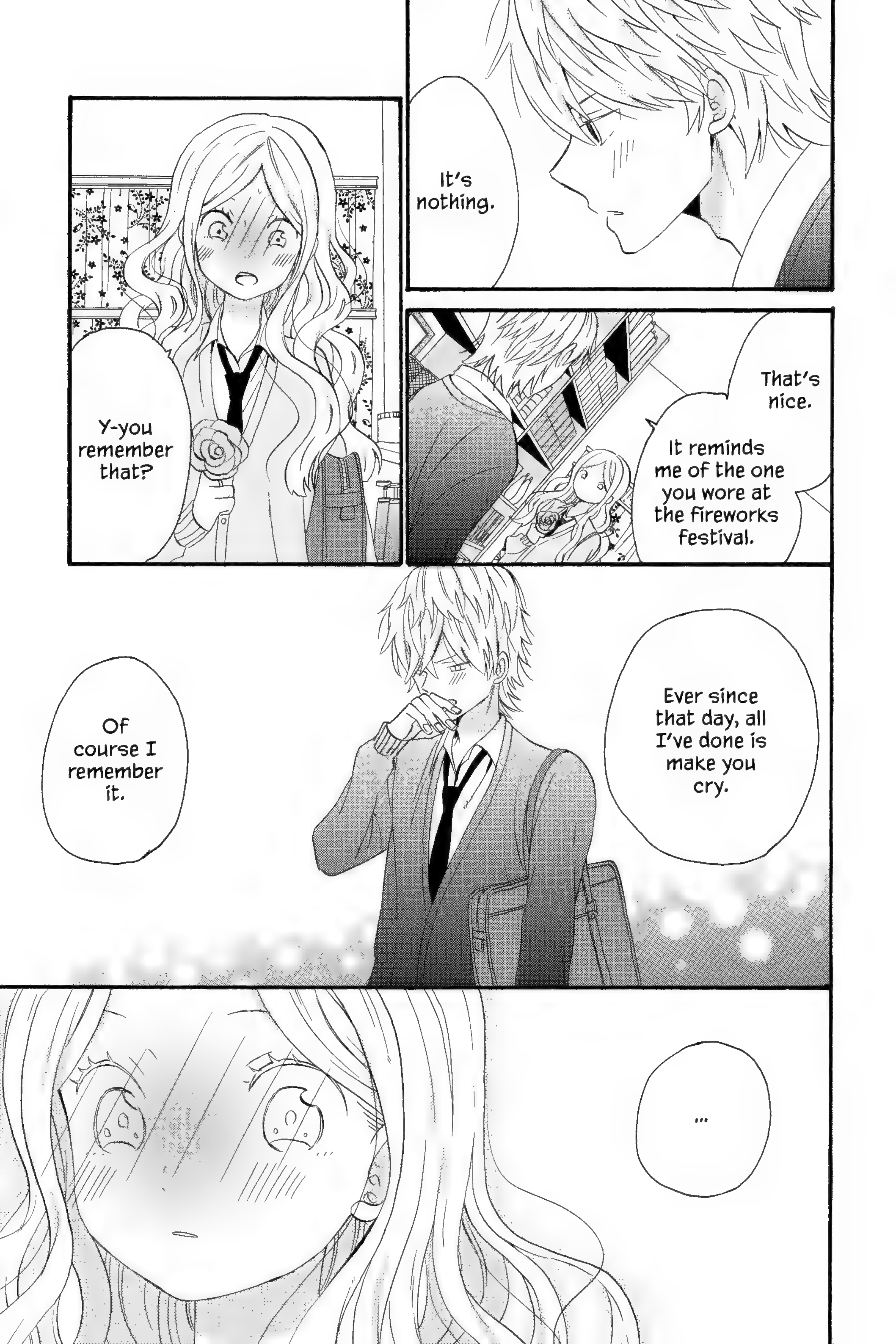

Huh?
Are you sure you want me?
I'm asking because it's you.
O-okay.
I'll go.
...
Mao and I will come, too.
!

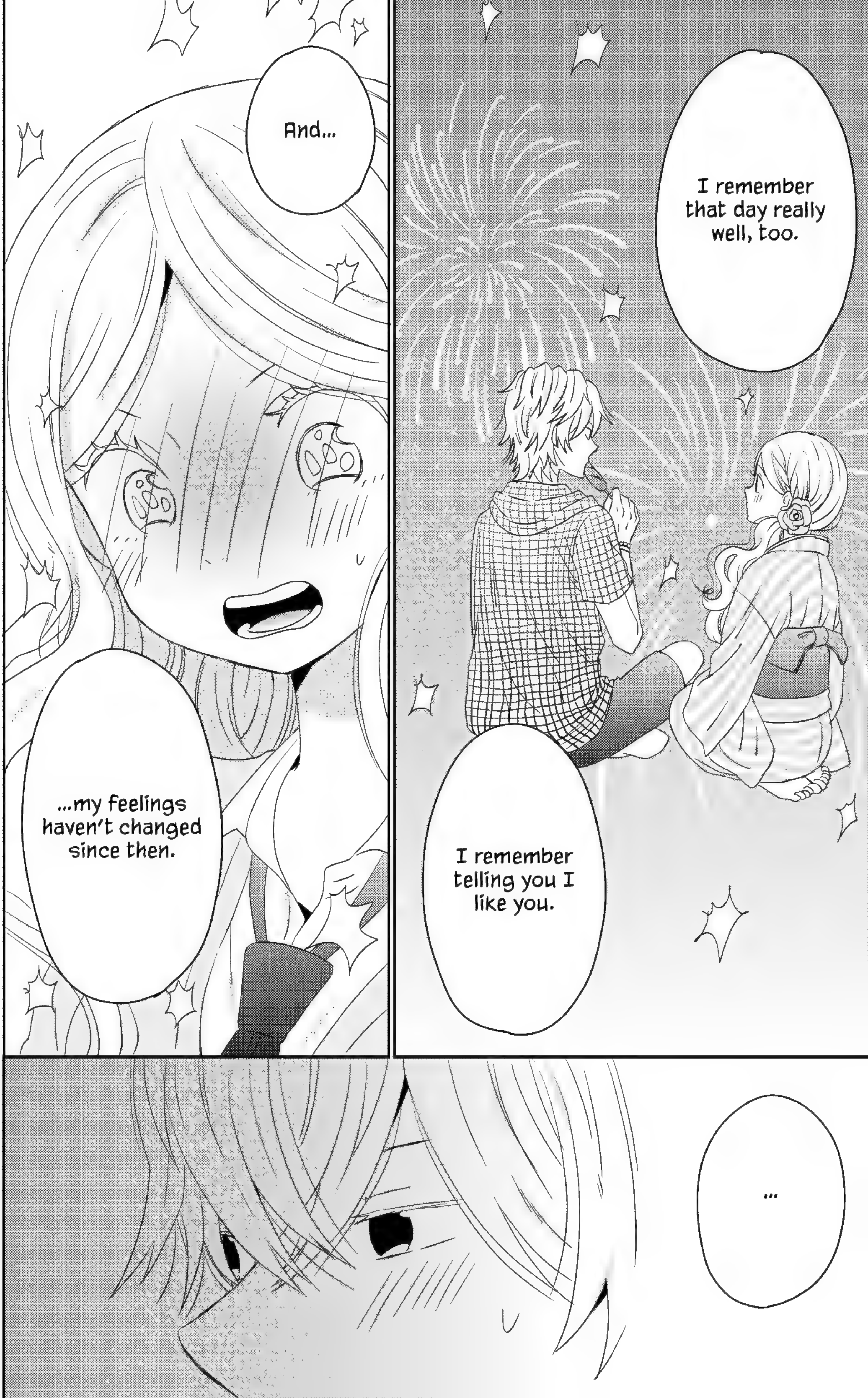

What, why?
To help out, of course.
What about this?!
Nice...
It's super good.

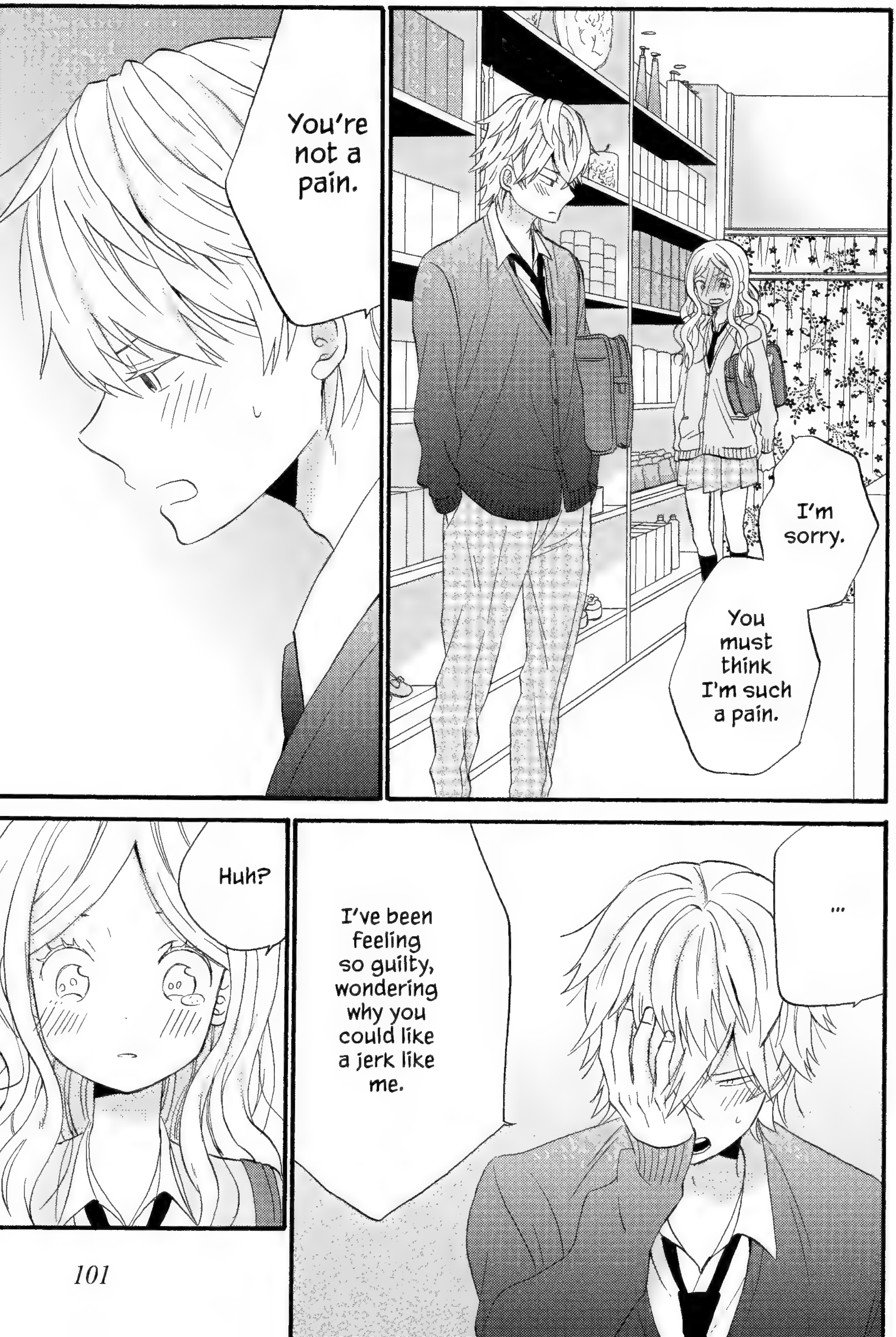

This place has great stuff!
It totally does.
They're having fun.
Yep.
...
Hey, what about something like this?
...

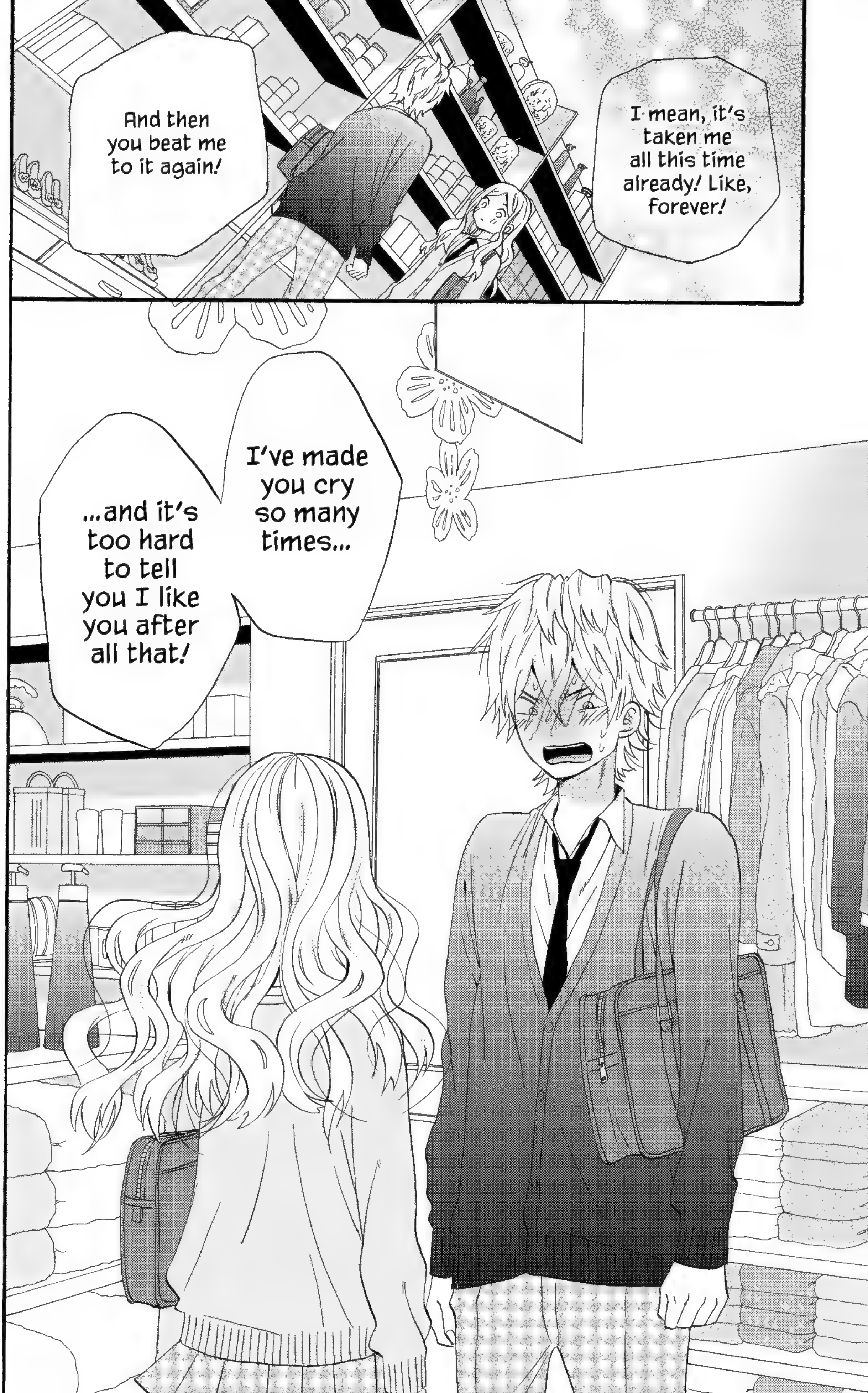

...
...
Hey, let's go check things out over there.
Sure.
...
Oooh! What is this?
Hey.
What?
How long are you planning to play it cool?
You could end up losing out to me.

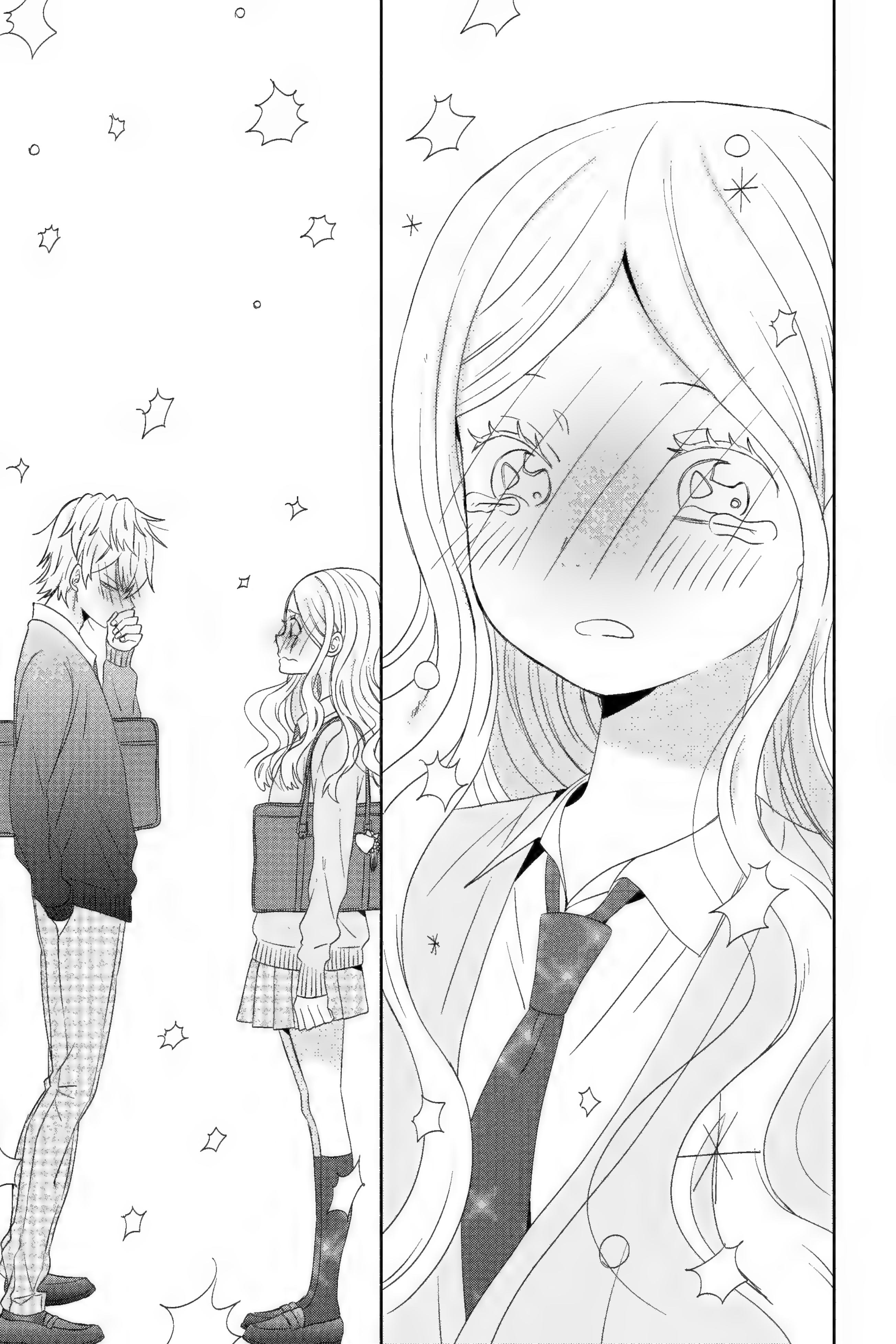

O-on what?
You tell me.
Mao.
Wanna go upstairs?
Sure!
Oda-kun, look!
How about this hair tie?
Oh... um.
Something happen?

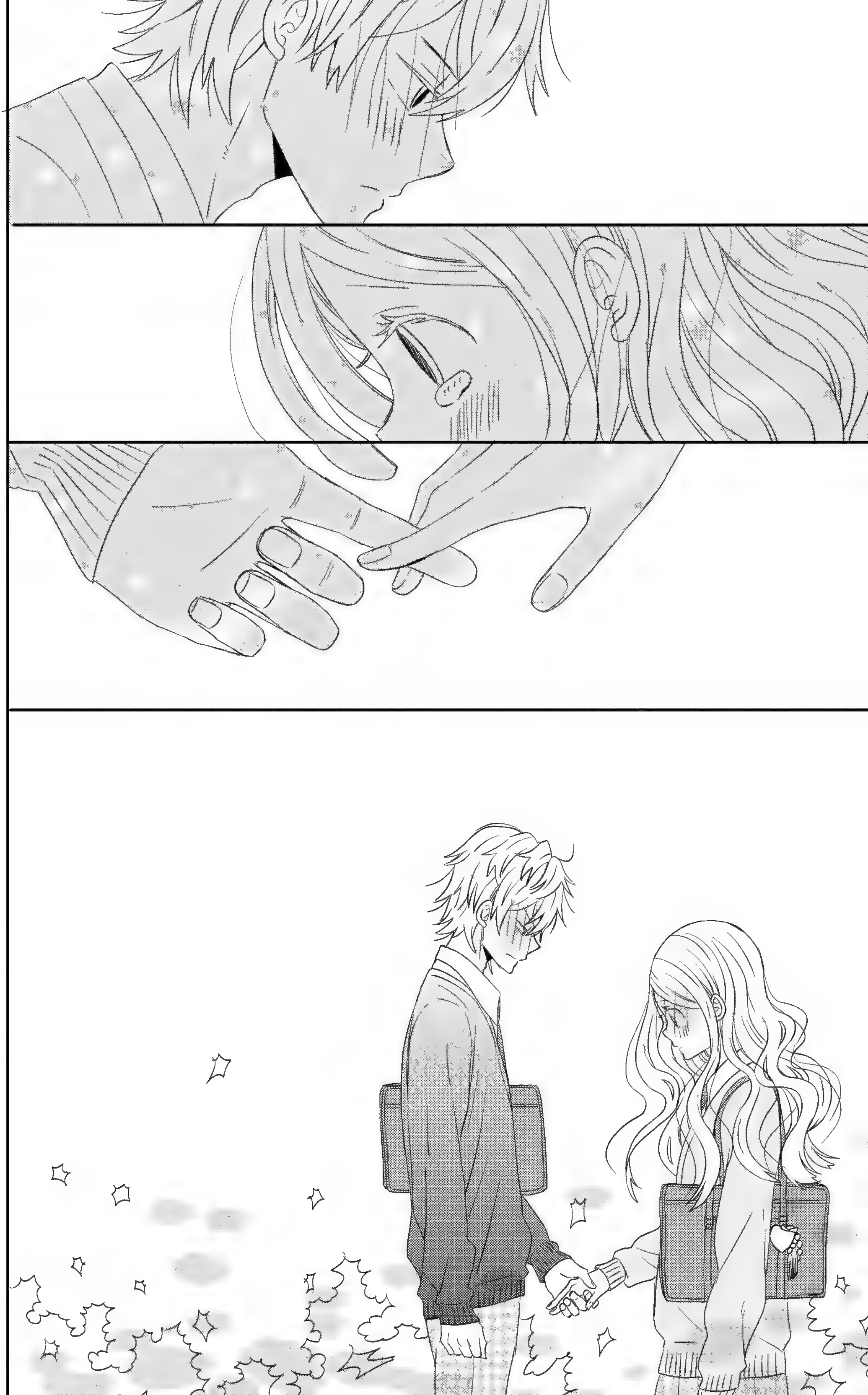

It's nothing.
Y-you remember that?
That's nice.
It reminds me of the one you wore at the fireworks festival.
Ever since that day, all I've done is make you cry.
Of course I remember it.
...

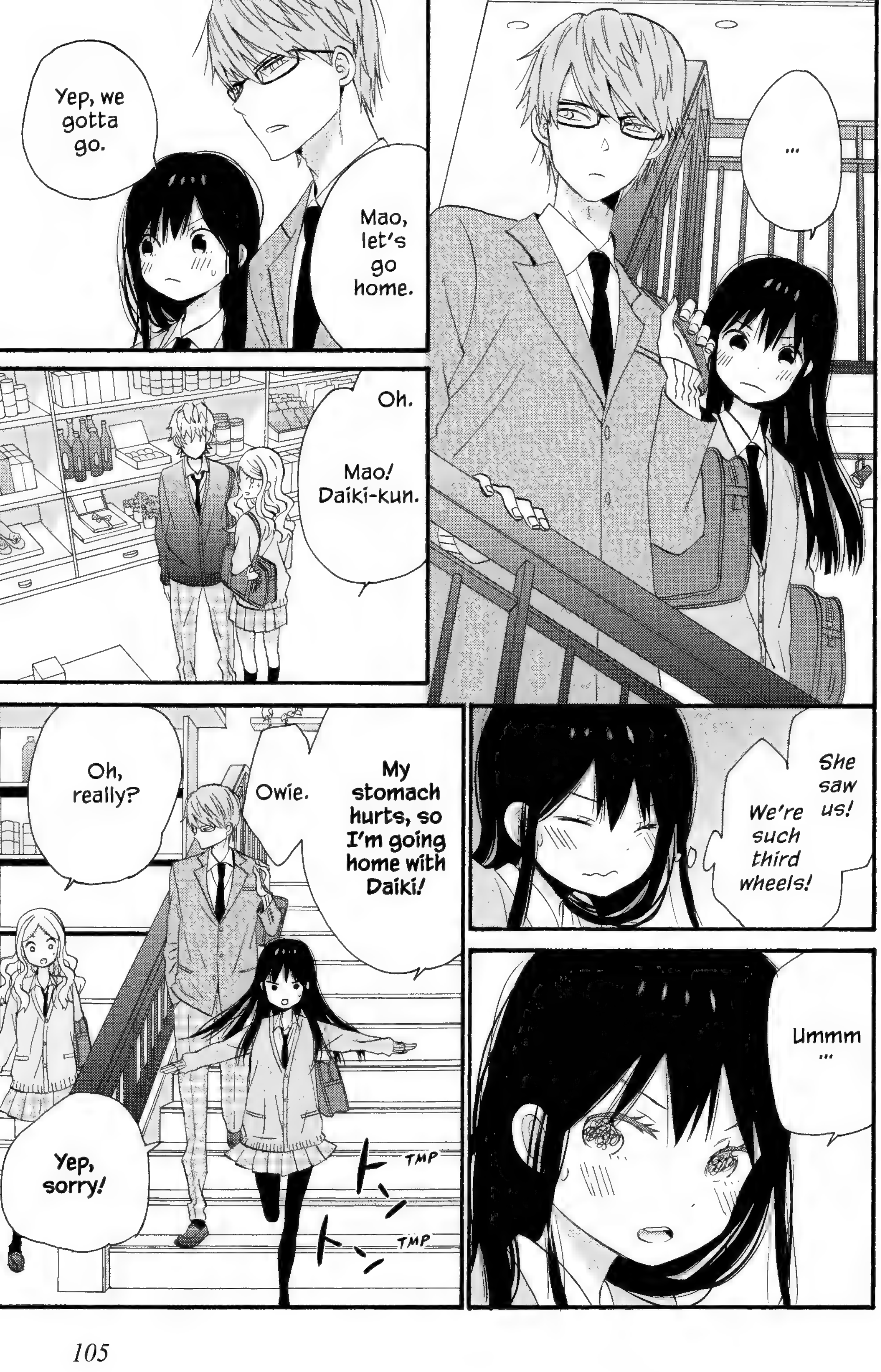

I remember that day really well, too.
I remember telling you I like you.
And...
...my feelings haven't changed since then.
...

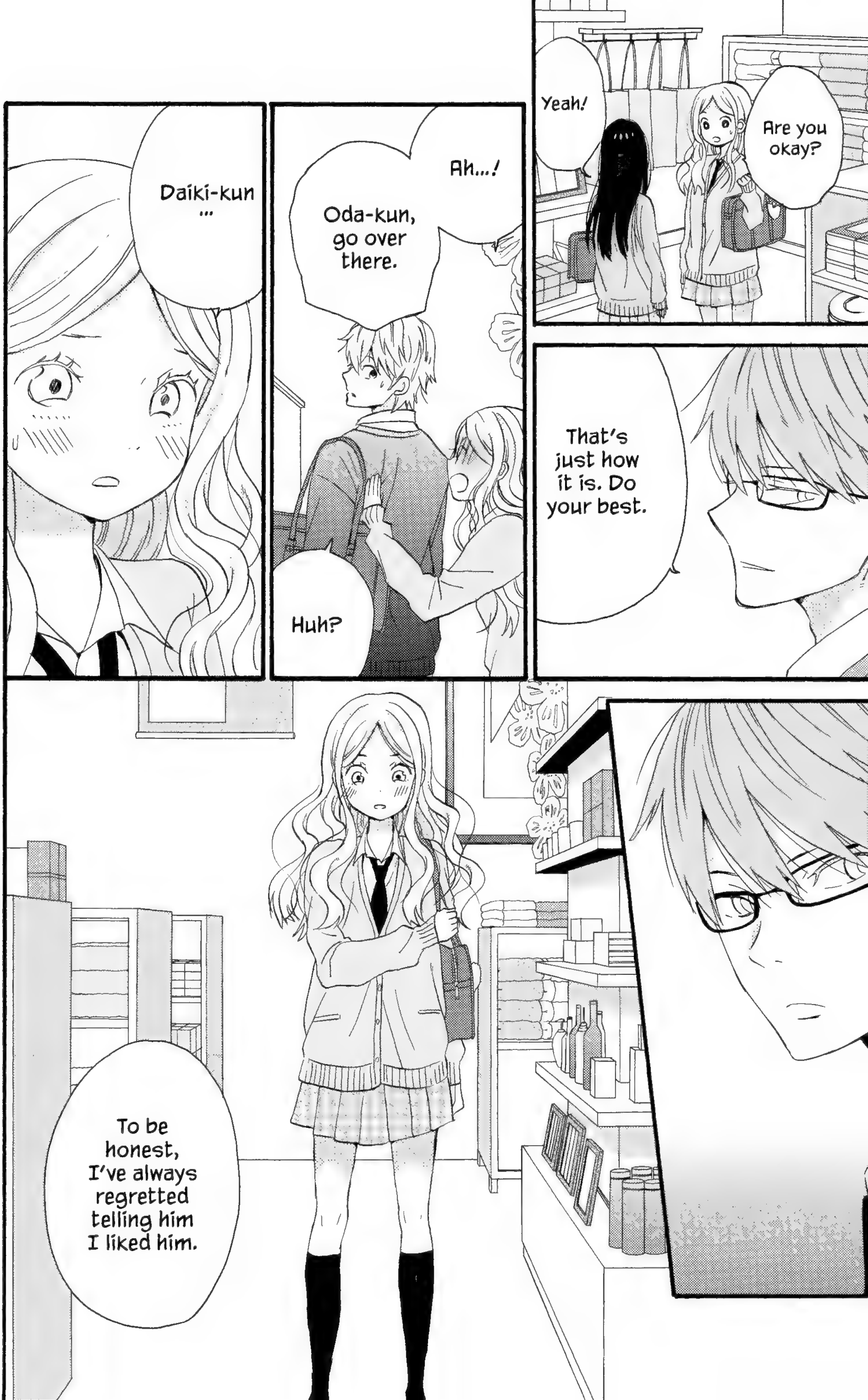

I'm sorry.
You must think I'm such a pain.
You're not a pain.
...
I've been feeling so guilty, wondering why you could like a jerk like me.
Huh?

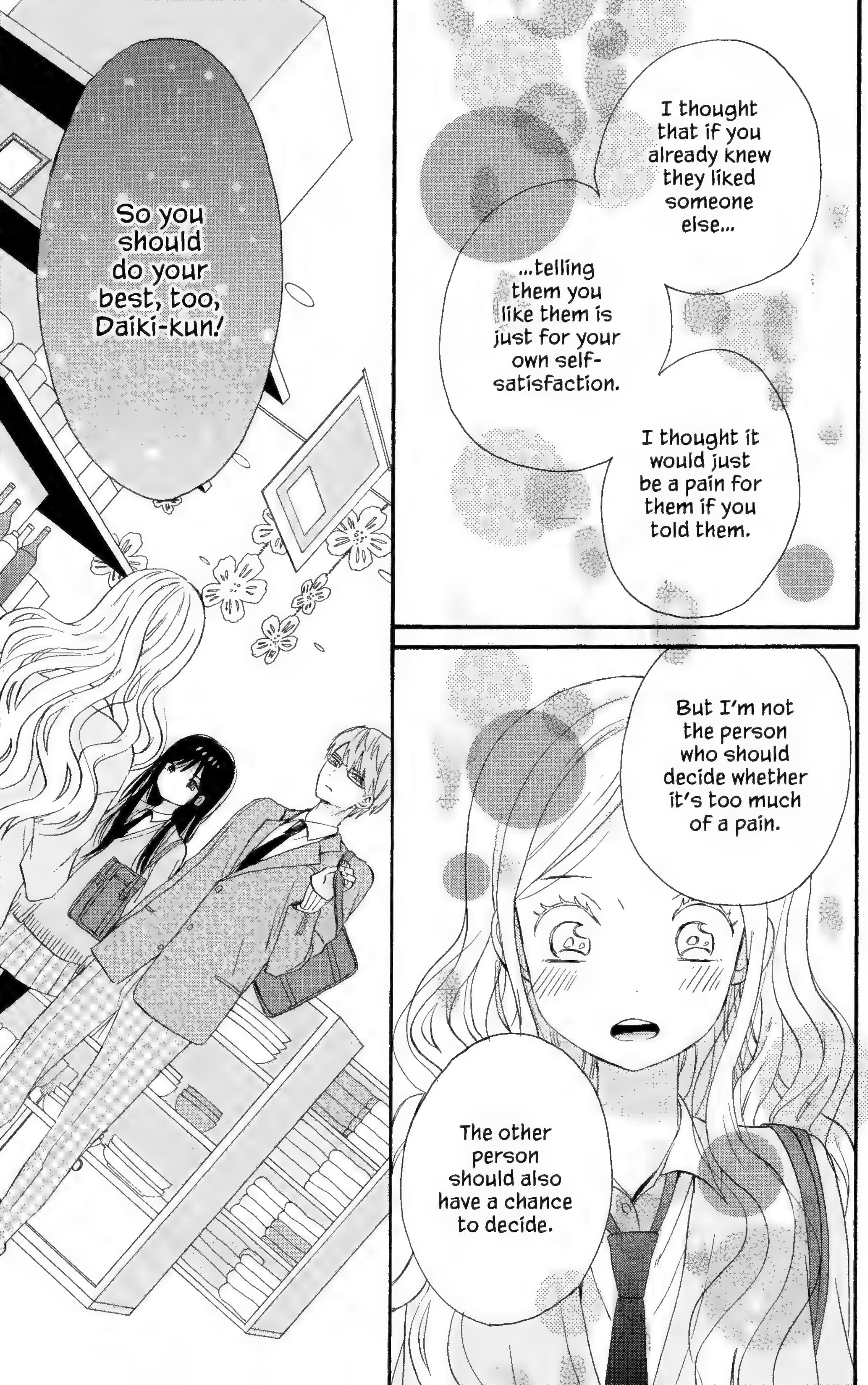

I mean, it's taken me all this time already! Like, forever!
And then you beat me to it again!
I've made you cry so many times...
...and it's too hard to tell you I like you after all that!

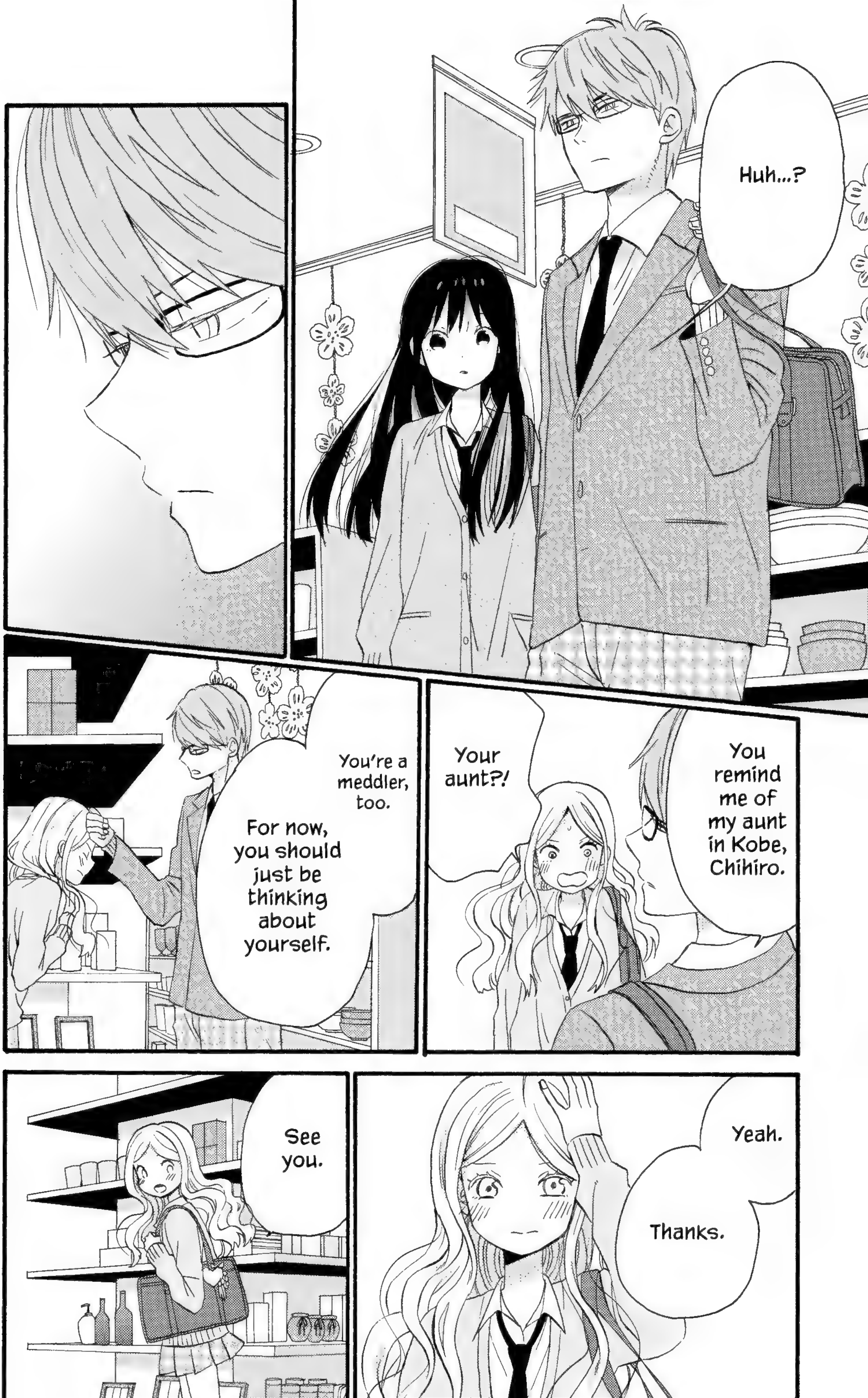




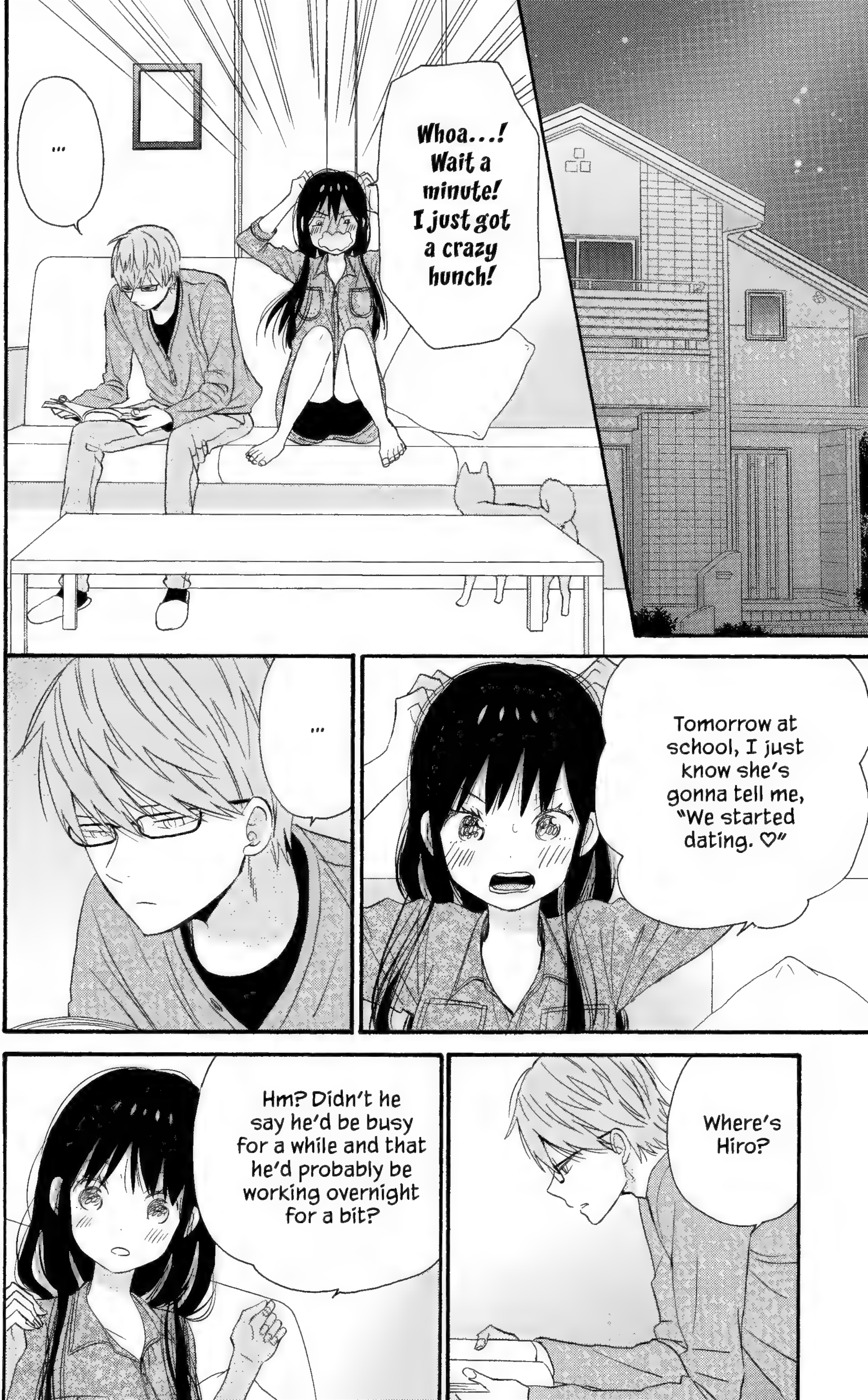

...
Mao, let's go home.
Yep, we gotta go.
Oh.
Mao! Daiki-kun.
She saw us!
We're such third wheels!
Ummm ...
My stomach hurts, so I'm going home with Daiki!
Owie.
Oh, really?
Yep, sorry!
TMP
TMP

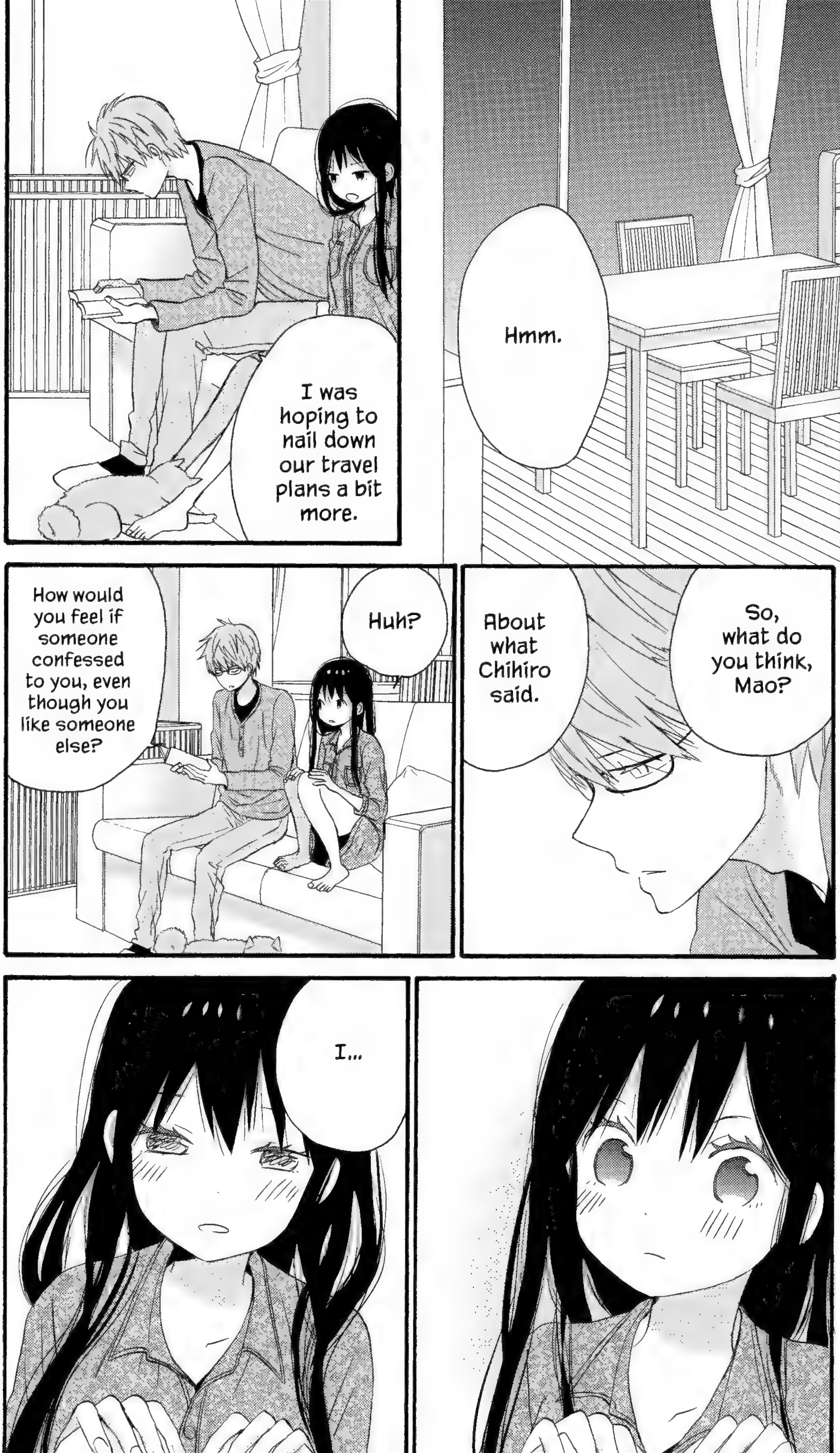

Are you okay?
Yeah!
That's just how it is. Do your best.
Ah...!
Oda-kun, go over there.
Huh?
Daiki-kun ...
To be honest, I've always regretted telling him I liked him.

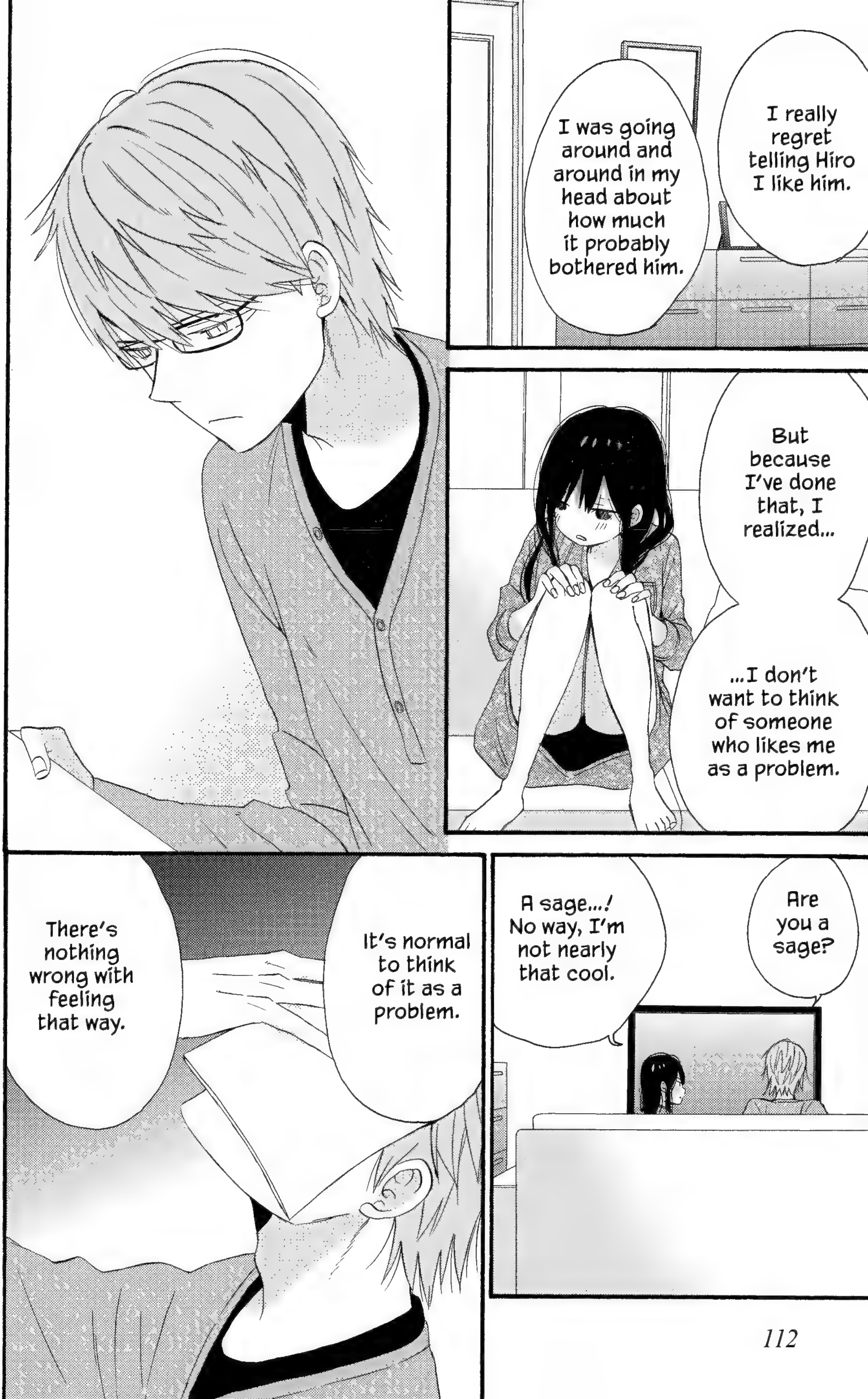

I thought that if you already knew they liked someone else...
...telling them you like them is just for your own self-satisfaction.
I thought it would just be a pain for them if you told them.
But I'm not the person who should decide whether it's too much of a pain.
The other person should also have a chance to decide.
So you should do your best, too, Daiki-kun!

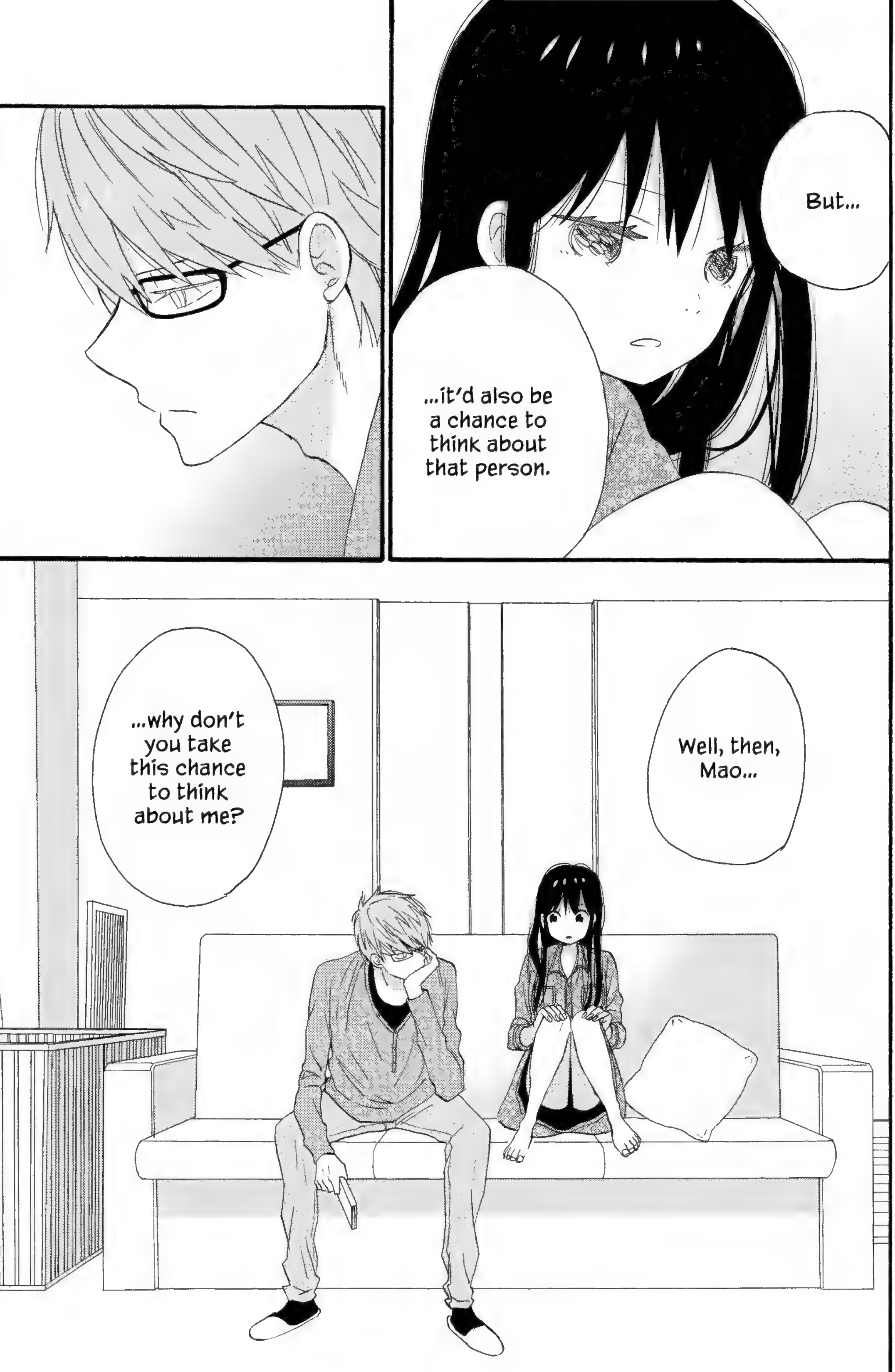

Huh...?
You remind me of my aunt in Kobe, Chihiro.
Your aunt?!
You're a meddler, too.
For now, you should just be thinking about yourself.
Yeah.
Thanks.
See you.

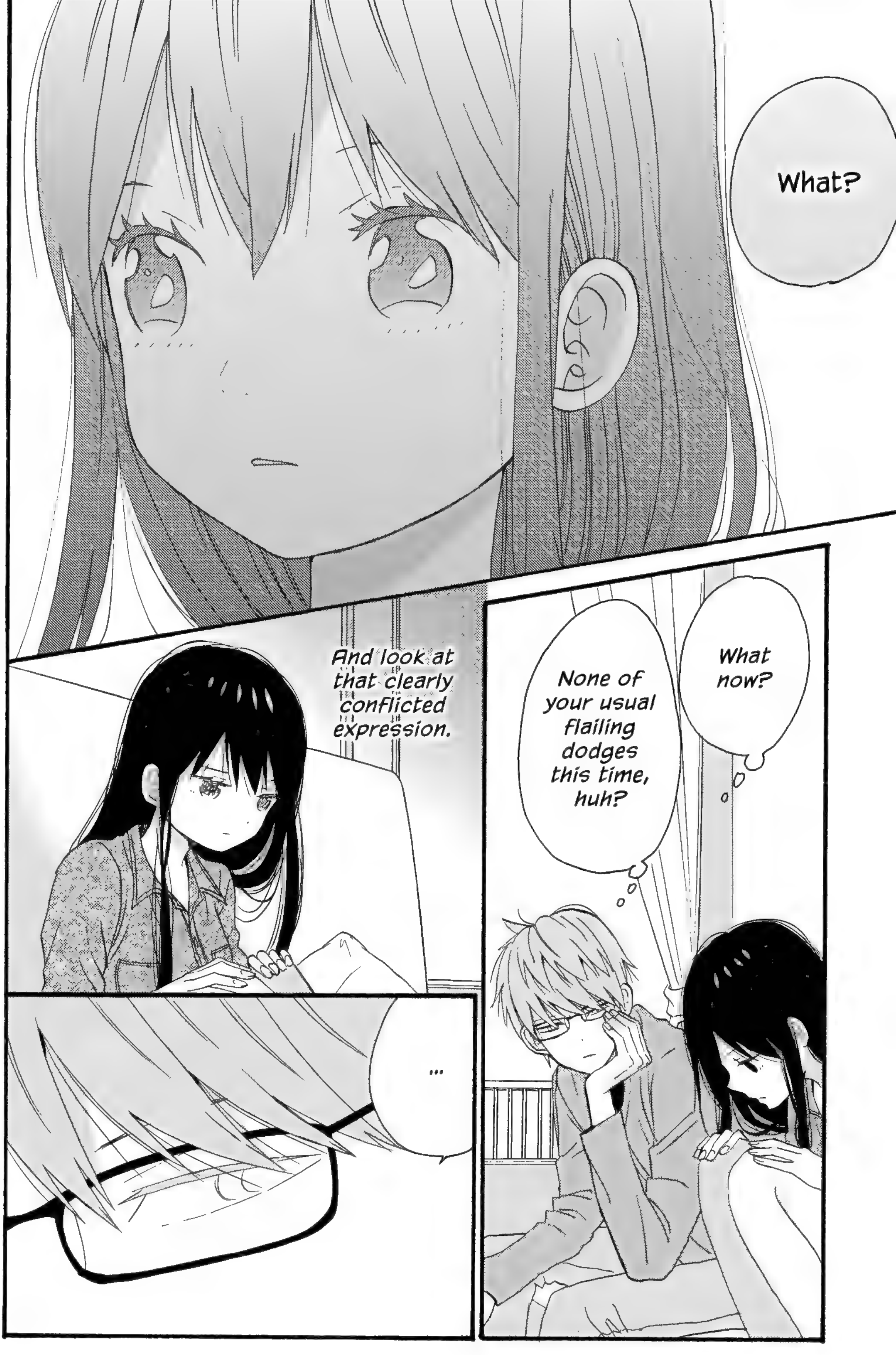
Ket

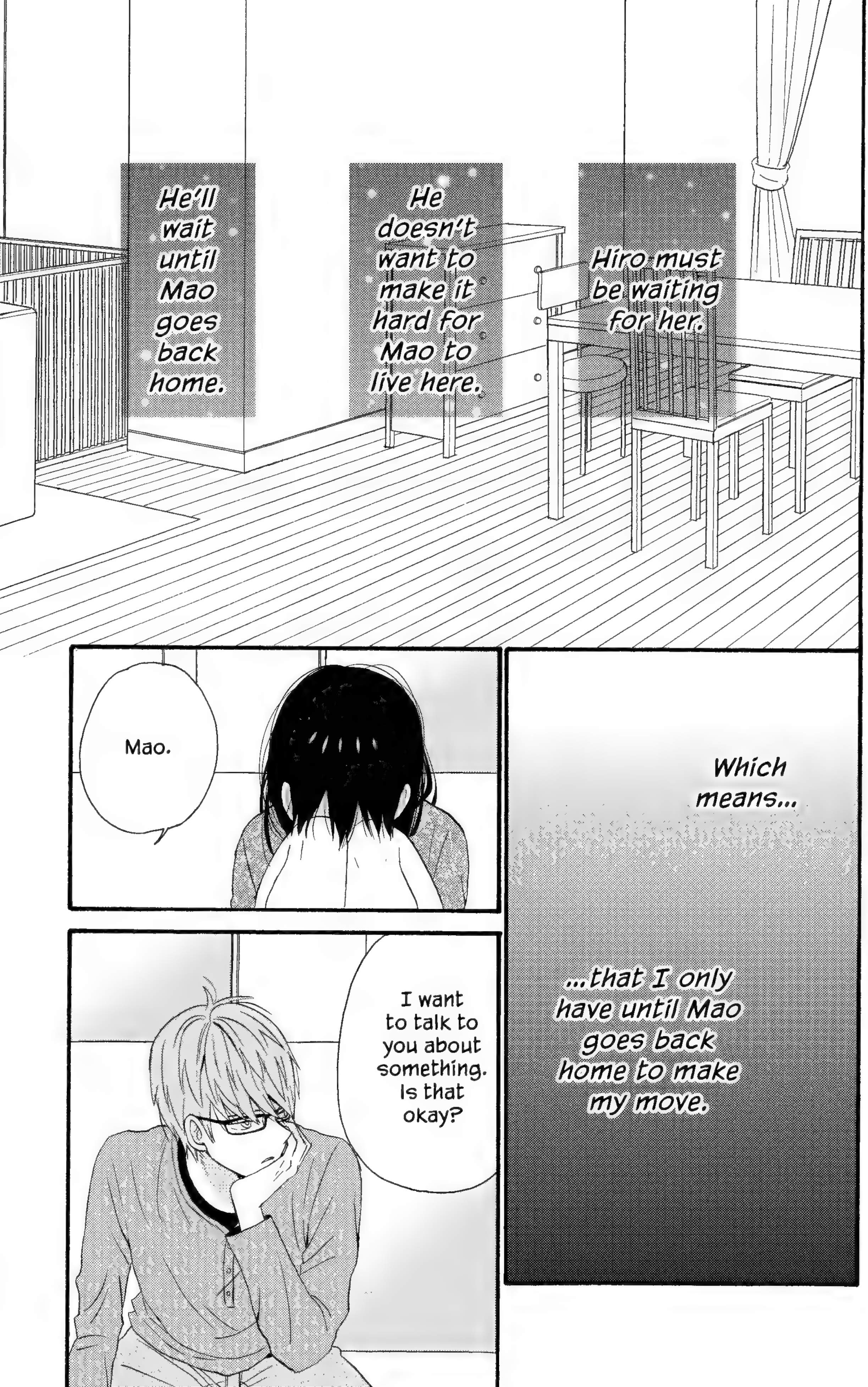

Whoa…! Wait a minute! I just got a crazy hunch!
…
Tomorrow at school, I just know she's gonna tell me, "We started dating. ♡"
…
Where's Hiro?
Hm? Didn't he say he'd be busy for a while and that he'd probably be working overnight for a bit?

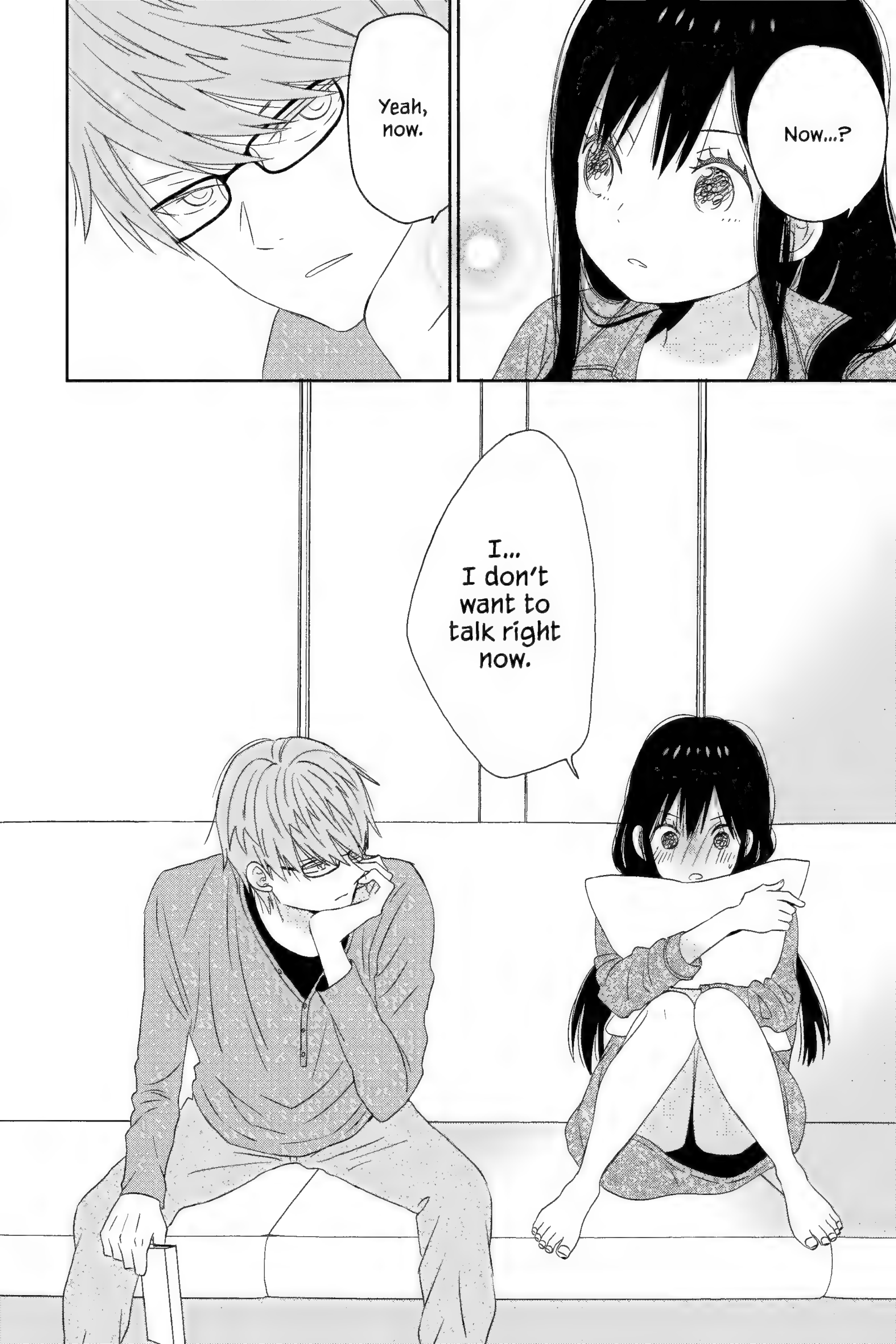

Hmm.
I was hoping to nail down our travel plans a bit more.
So, what do you think, Mao?
About what Chihiro said.
Huh?
How would you feel if someone confessed to you, even though you like someone else?
I...

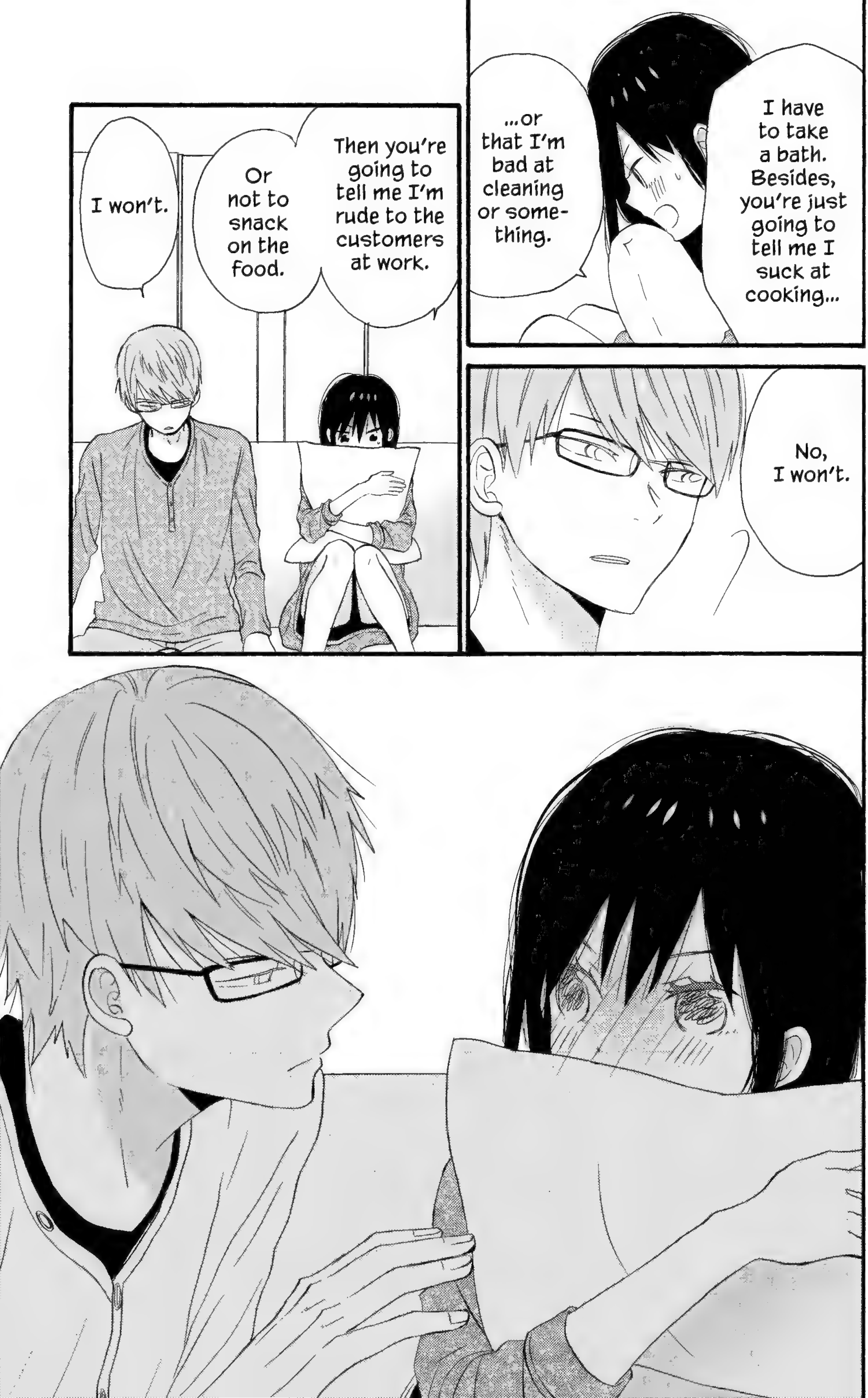

I really regret telling Hiro I like him.
I was going around and around in my head about how much it probably bothered him.
But because I've done that, I realized...
...I don't want to think of someone who likes me as a problem.
Are you a sage?
A sage...! No way, I'm not nearly that cool.
It's normal to think of it as a problem.
There's nothing wrong with feeling that way.

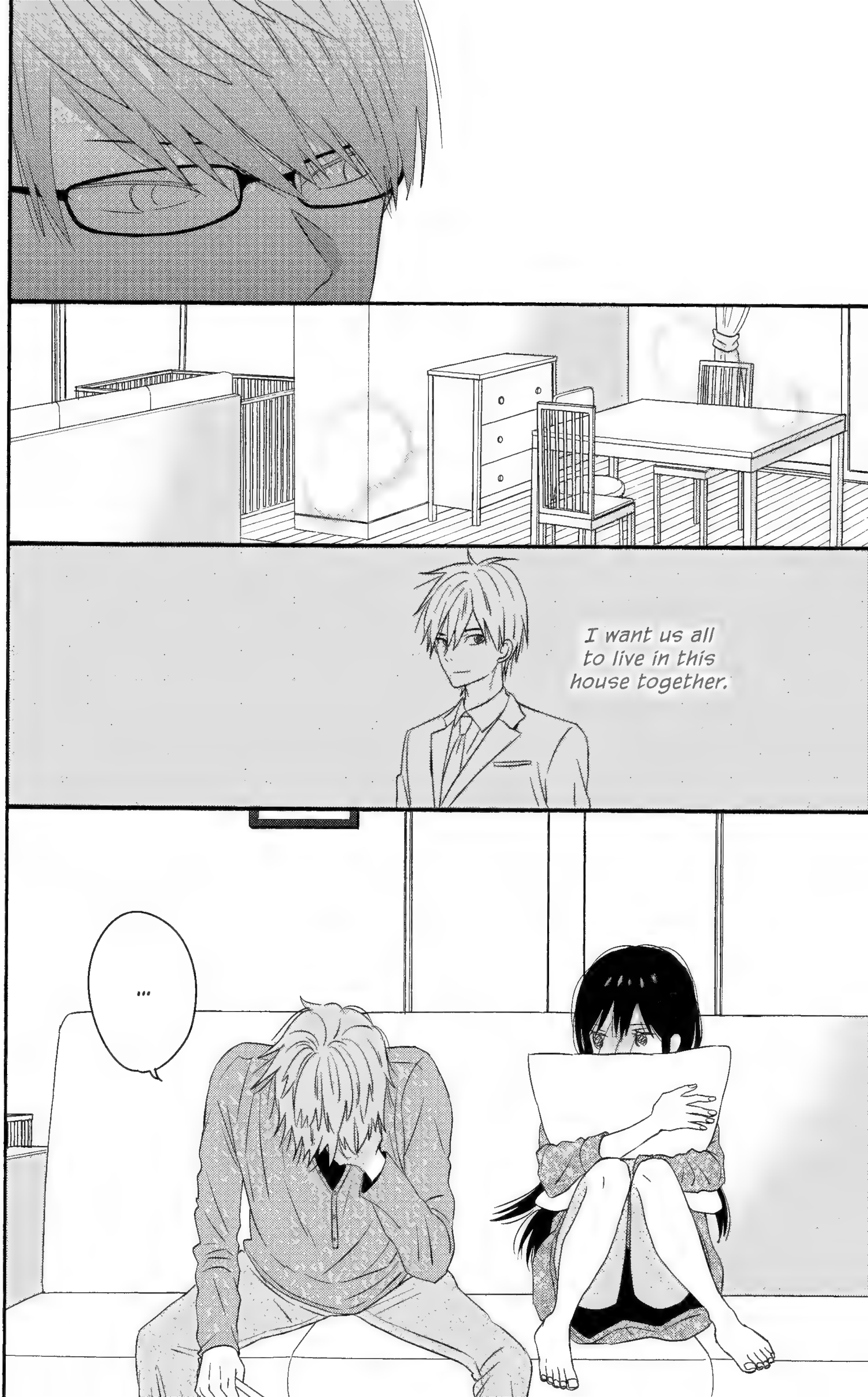

But...
...it'd also be a chance to think about that person.
Well, then, Mao...
...why don't you take this chance to think about me?

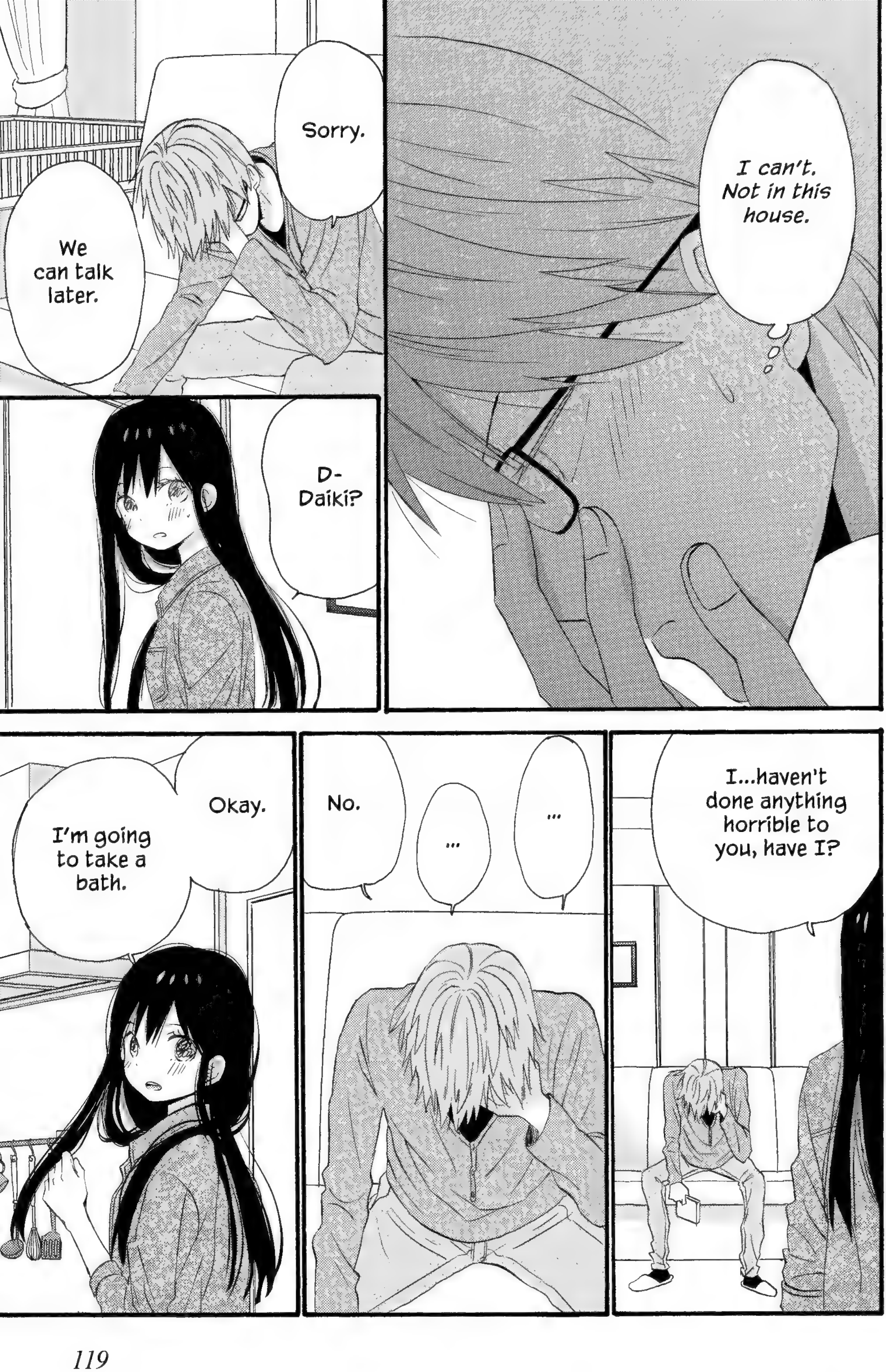

What?
What now?
None of your usual flailing dodges this time, huh?
And look at that clearly conflicted expression.
...

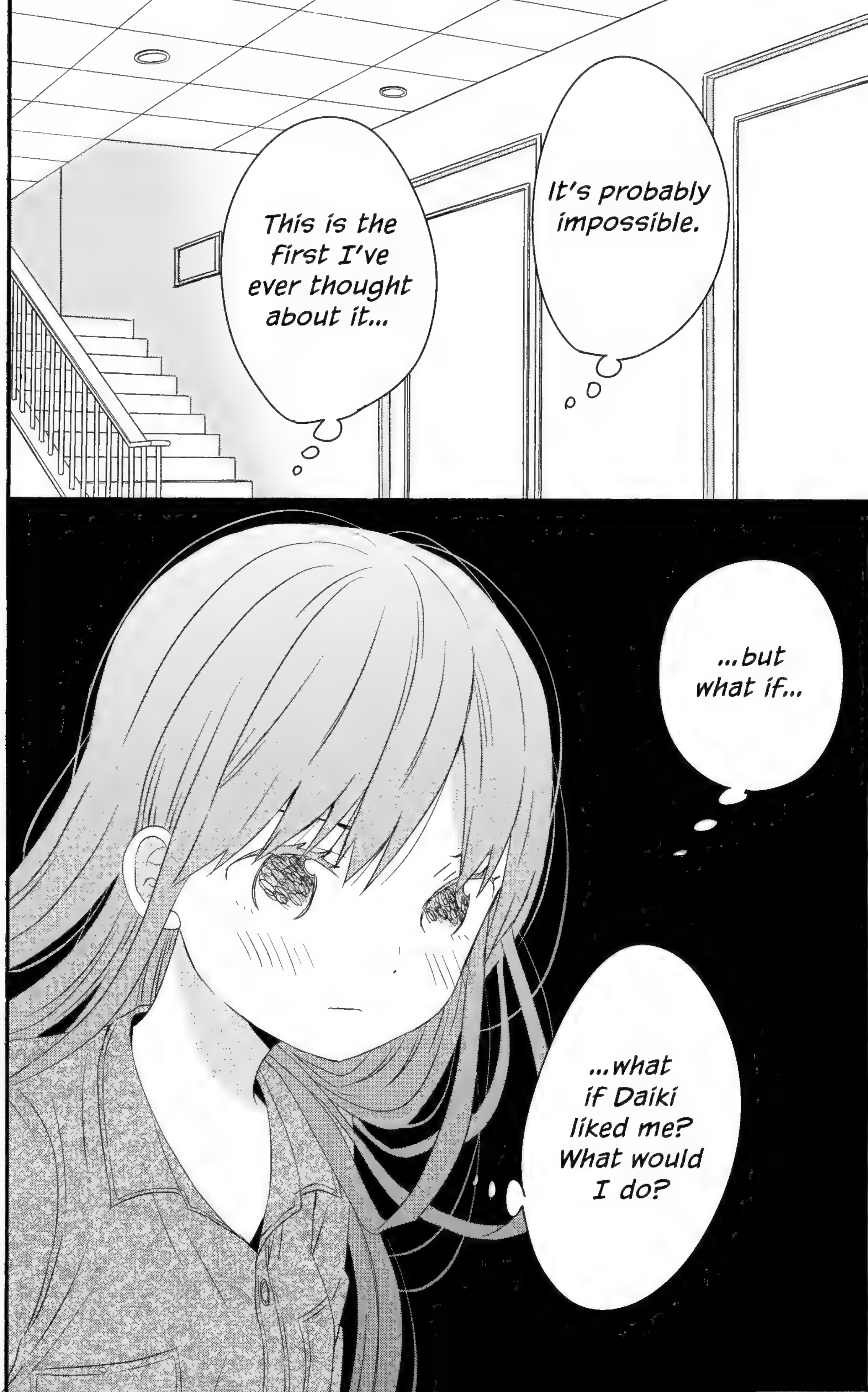

Hiro must be waiting for her.
He doesn't want to make it hard for Mao to live here.
He'll wait until Mao goes back home.
Which means...
...that I only have until Mao goes back home to make my move.
Mao.
I want to talk to you about something. Is that okay?


Now...?
Yeah, now.
I... I don't want to talk right now.


I have to take a bath. Besides, you're just going to tell me I suck at cooking...
...or that I'm bad at cleaning or something.
Then you're going to tell me I'm rude to the customers at work.
Or not to snack on the food.
I won't.
No, I won't.

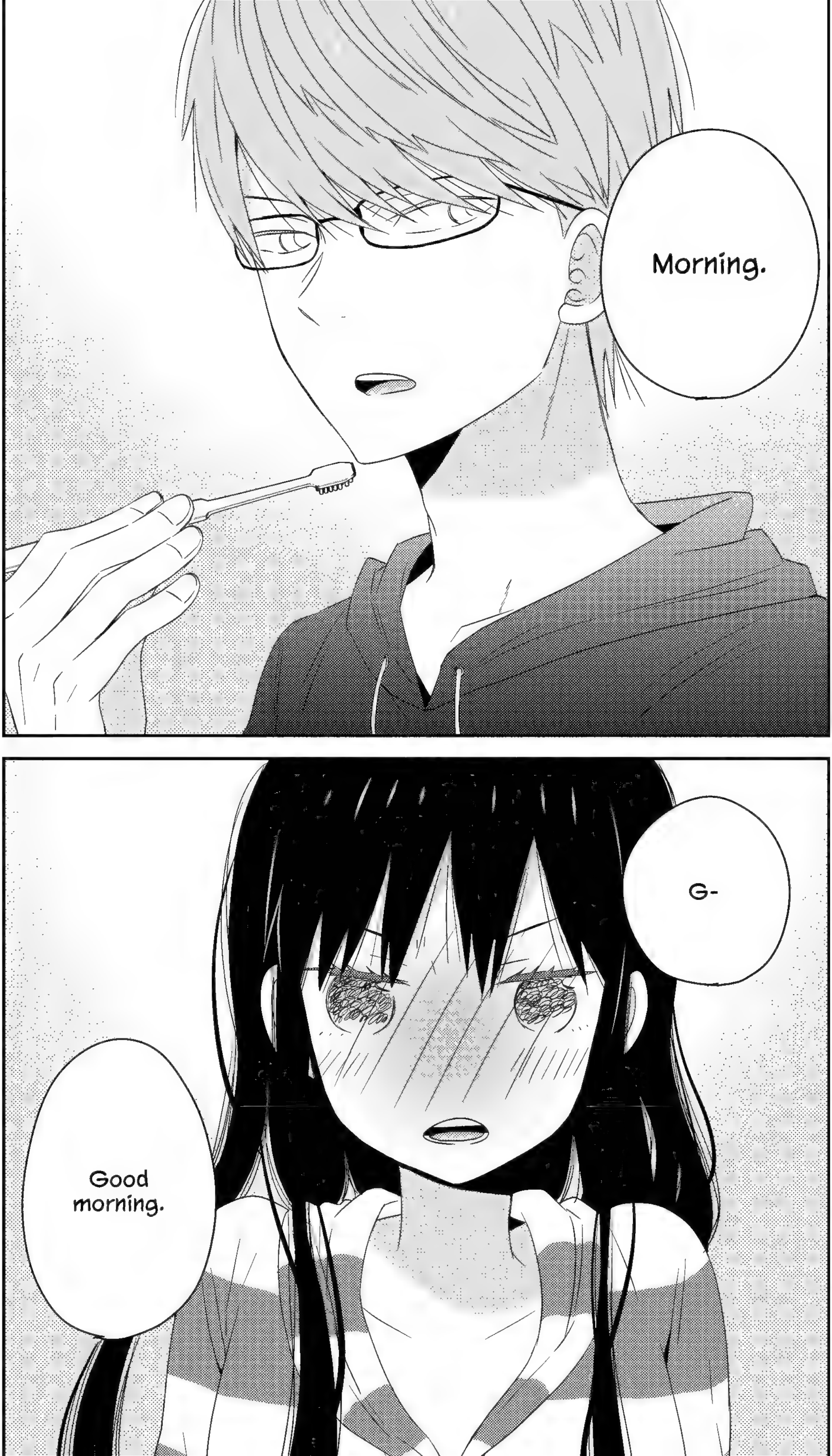

I want us all to live in this house together.
...

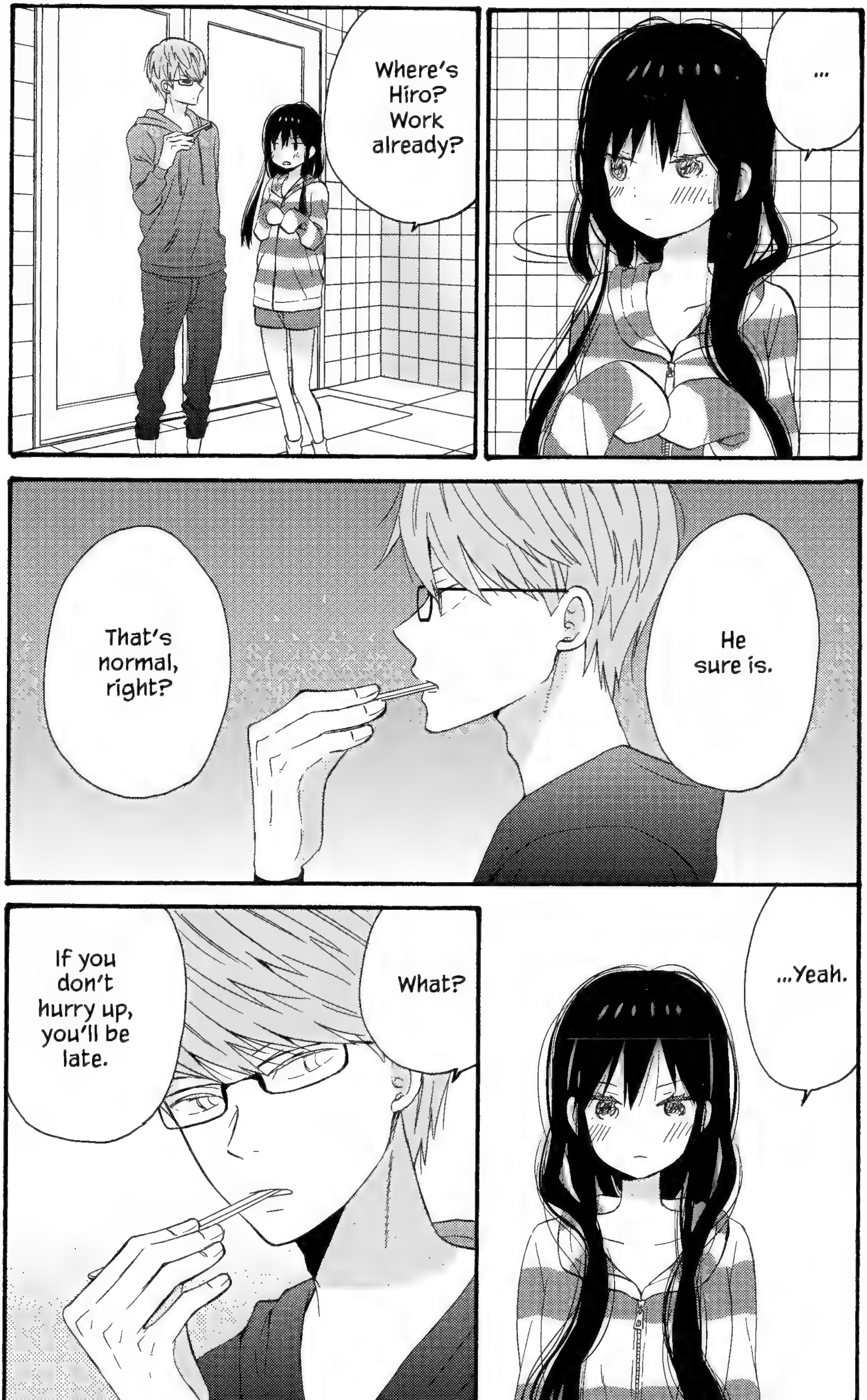

I can't. Not in this house.
Sorry.
We can talk later.
D-Daiki?
I...haven't done anything horrible to you, have I?
...
...
No.
Okay.
I'm going to take a bath.

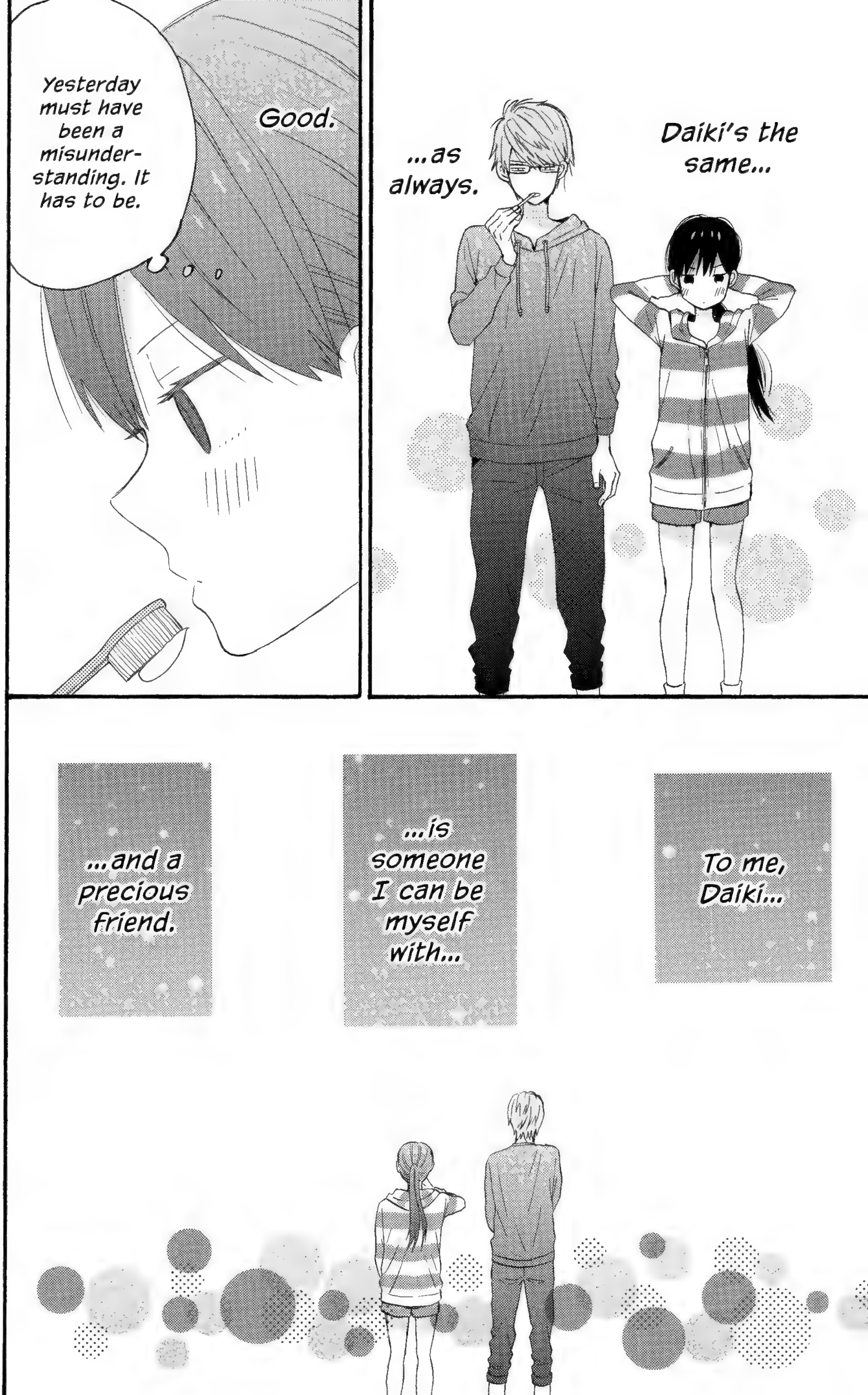

It's probably impossible.
This is the first I've ever thought about it...
...but what if...
...what if Daiki liked me? What would I do?

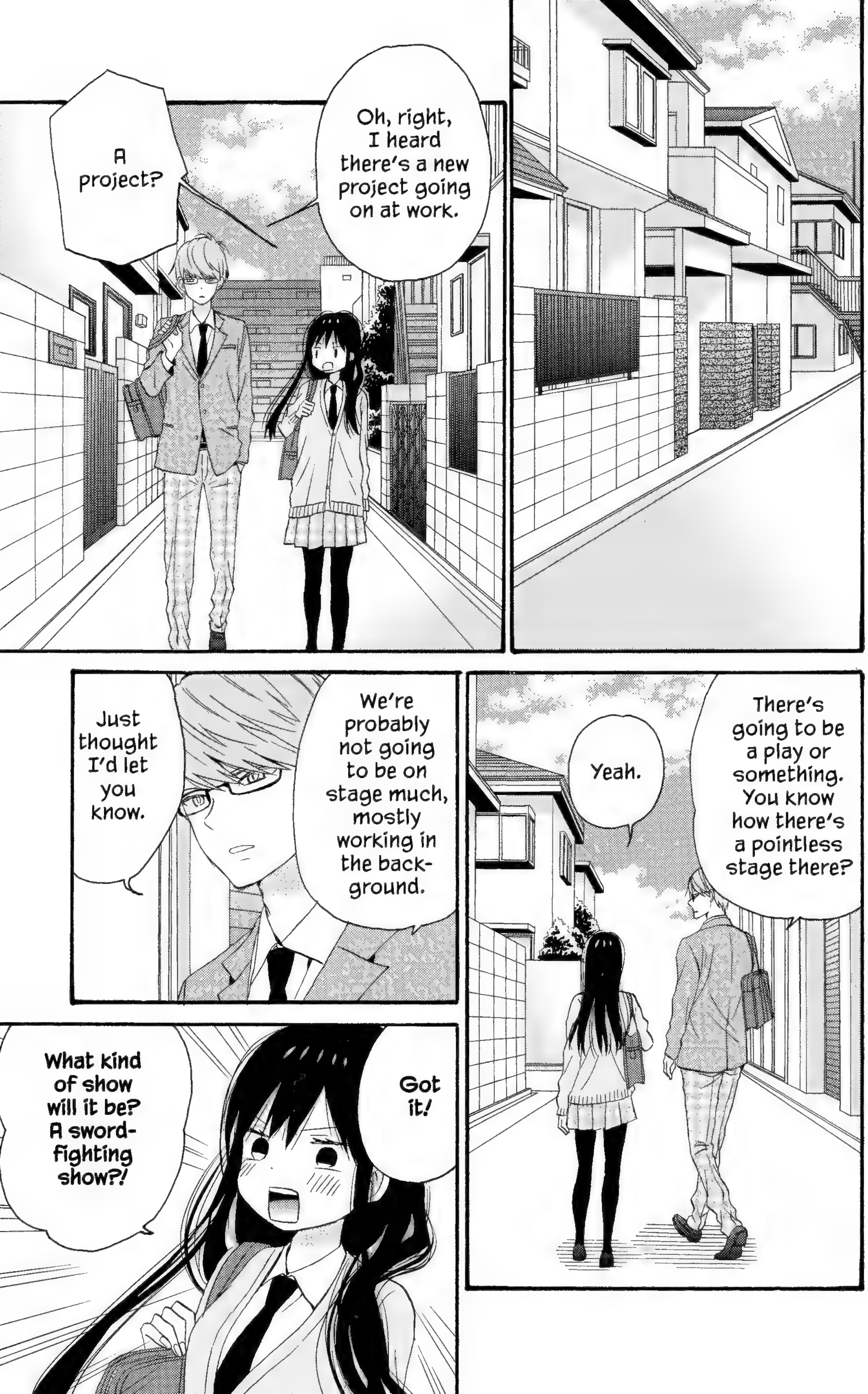
story 36

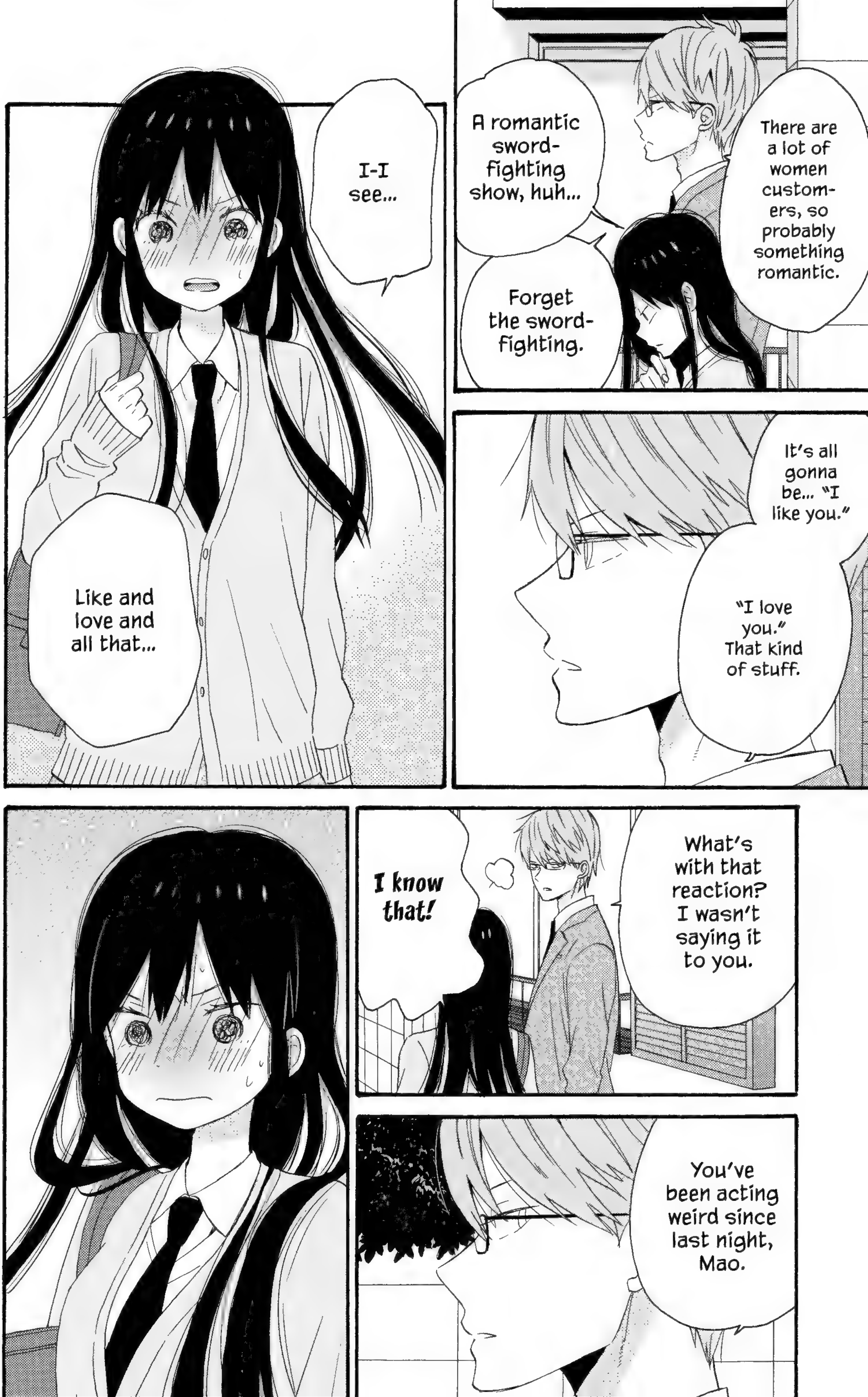
Ever Since We Were Children

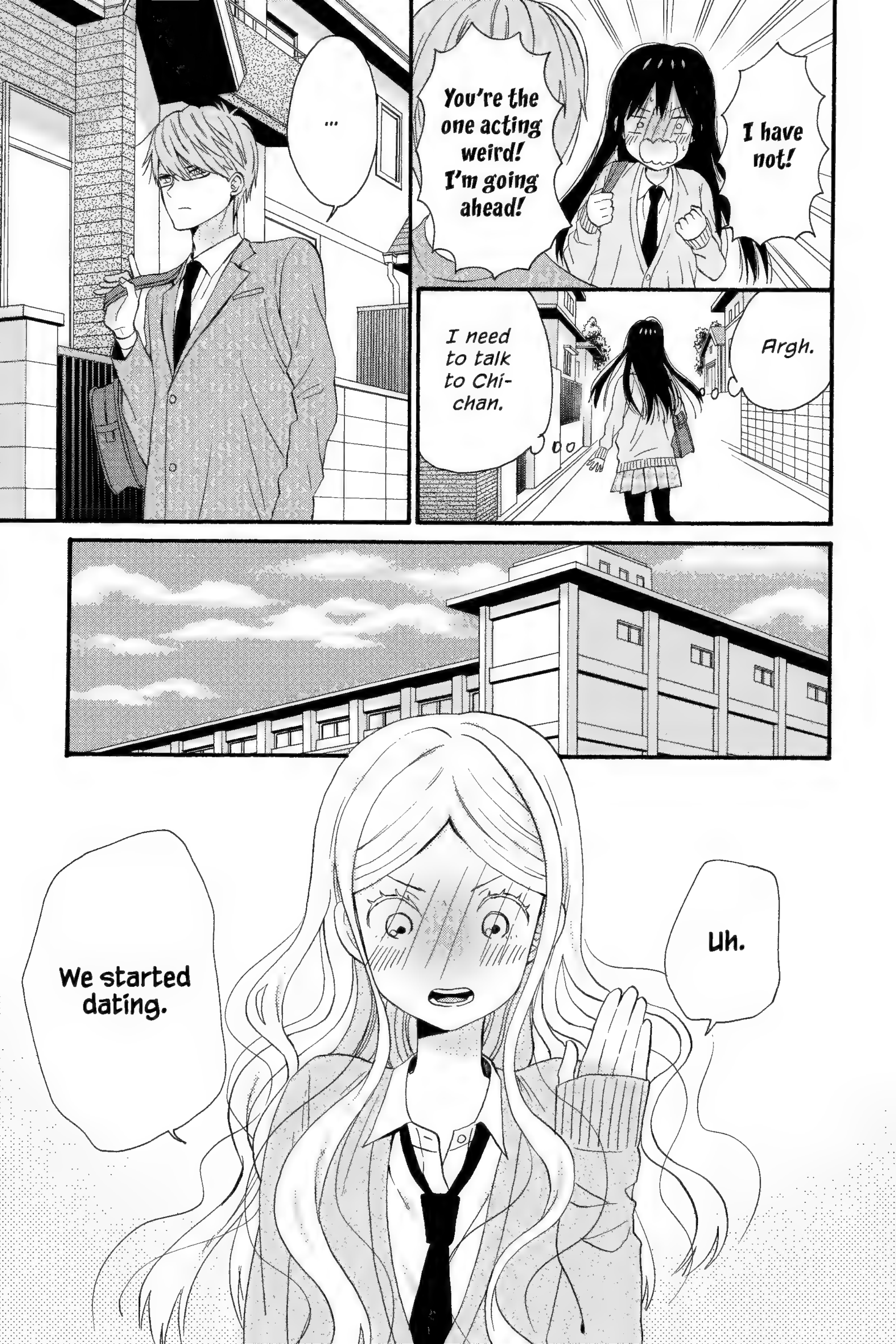

Morning.
G-
Good morning.

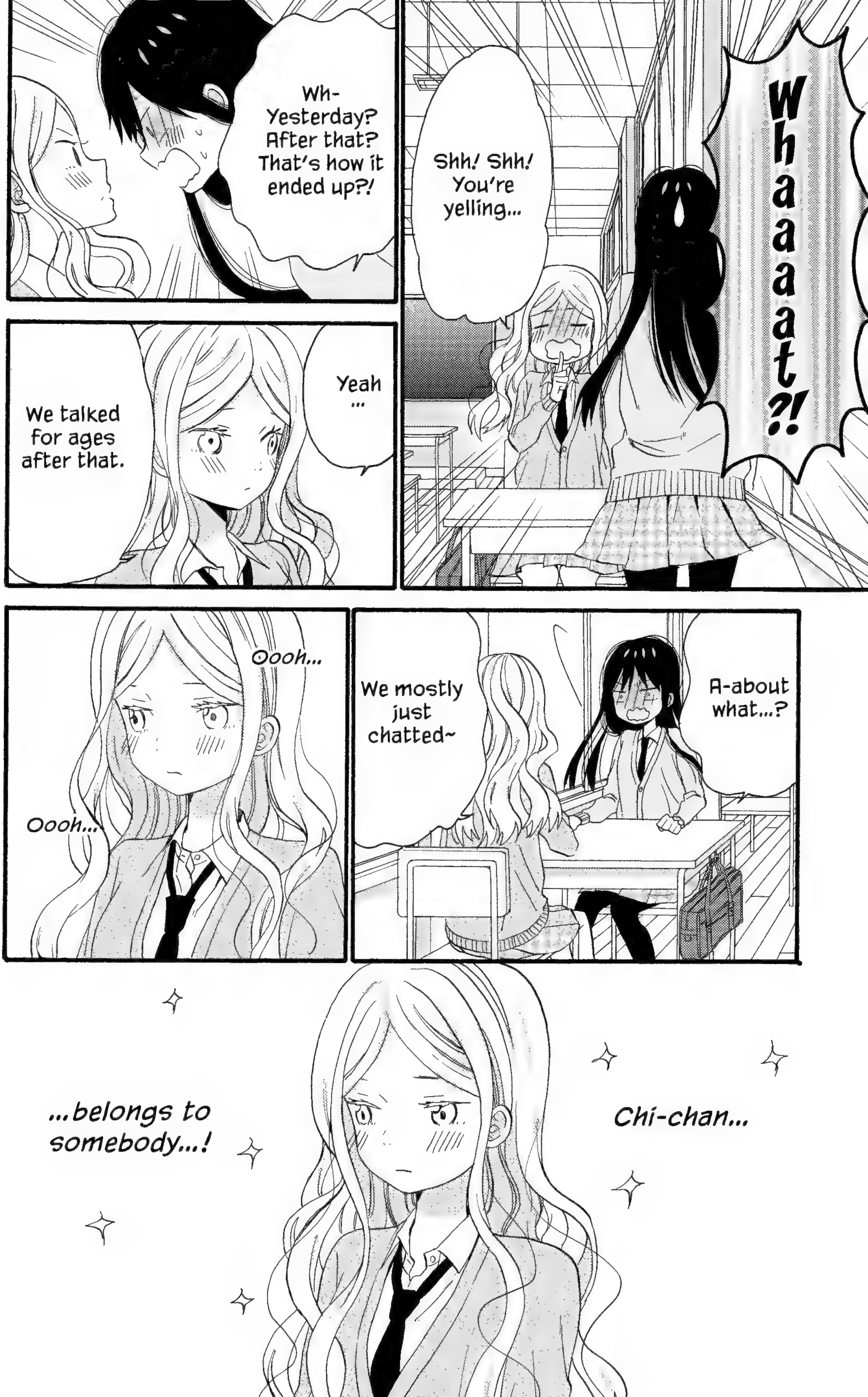

...
Where's Hiro? Work already?
He sure is.
That's normal, right?
...Yeah.
What?
If you don't hurry up, you'll be late.

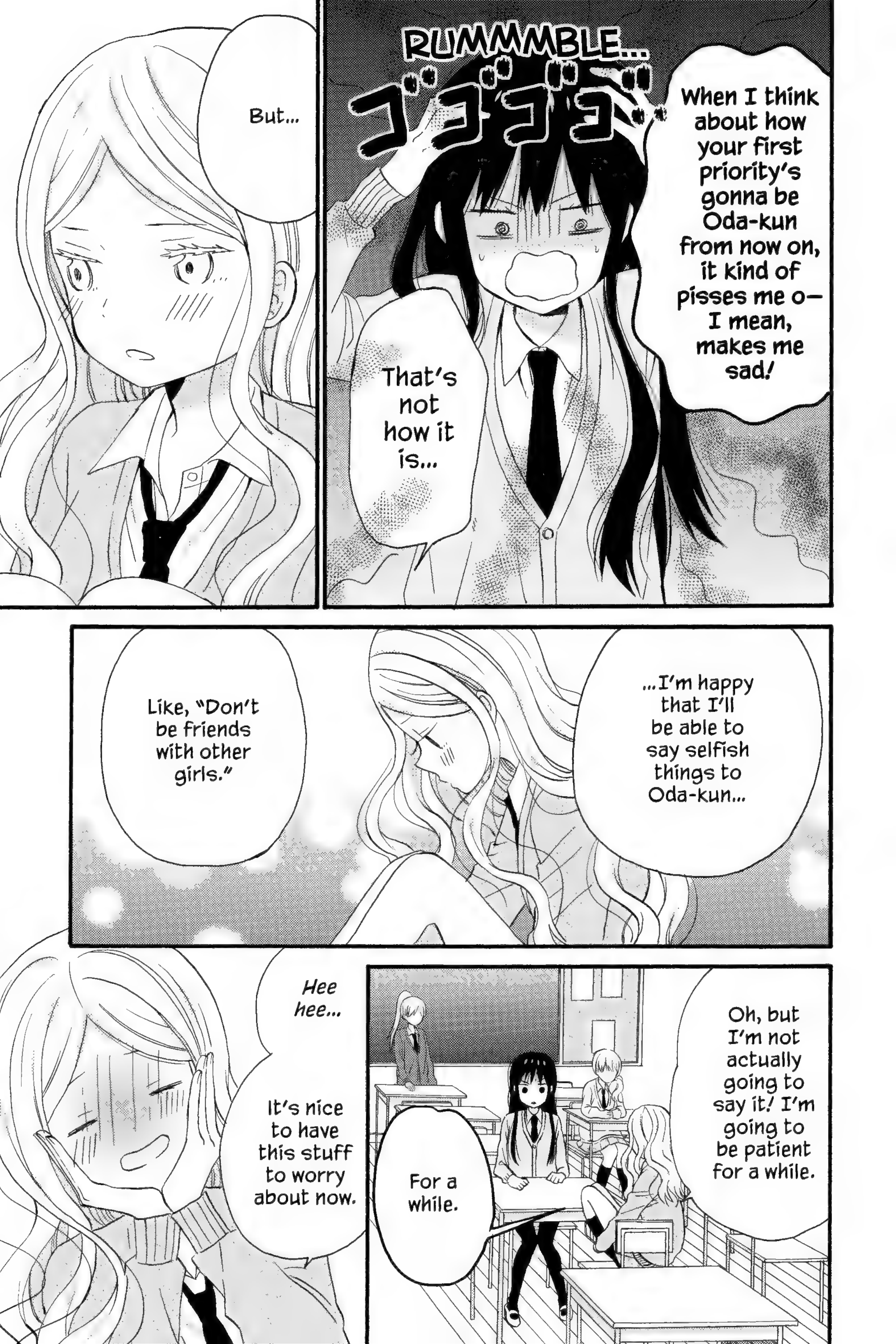

Daiki's the same...
...as always.
Good.
Yesterday must have been a misunderstanding. It has to be.
To me, Daiki...
...is someone I can be myself with...
...and a precious friend.

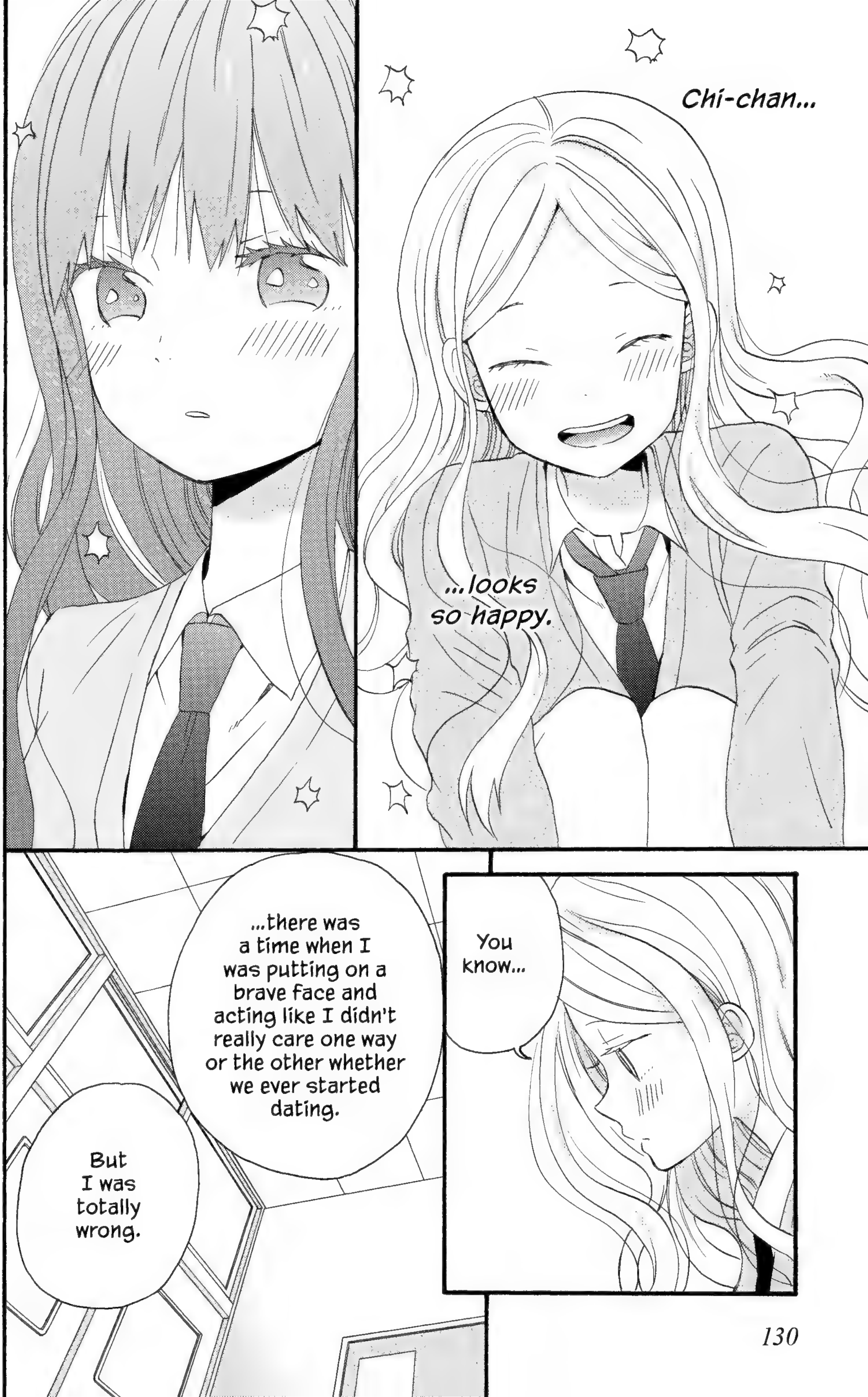

Oh, right, I heard there's a new project going on at work.
A project?
There's going to be a play or something. You know how there's a pointless stage there?
Yeah.
We're probably not going to be on stage much, mostly working in the background.
Just thought I'd let you know.
Got it!
What kind of show will it be? A sword-fighting show?!

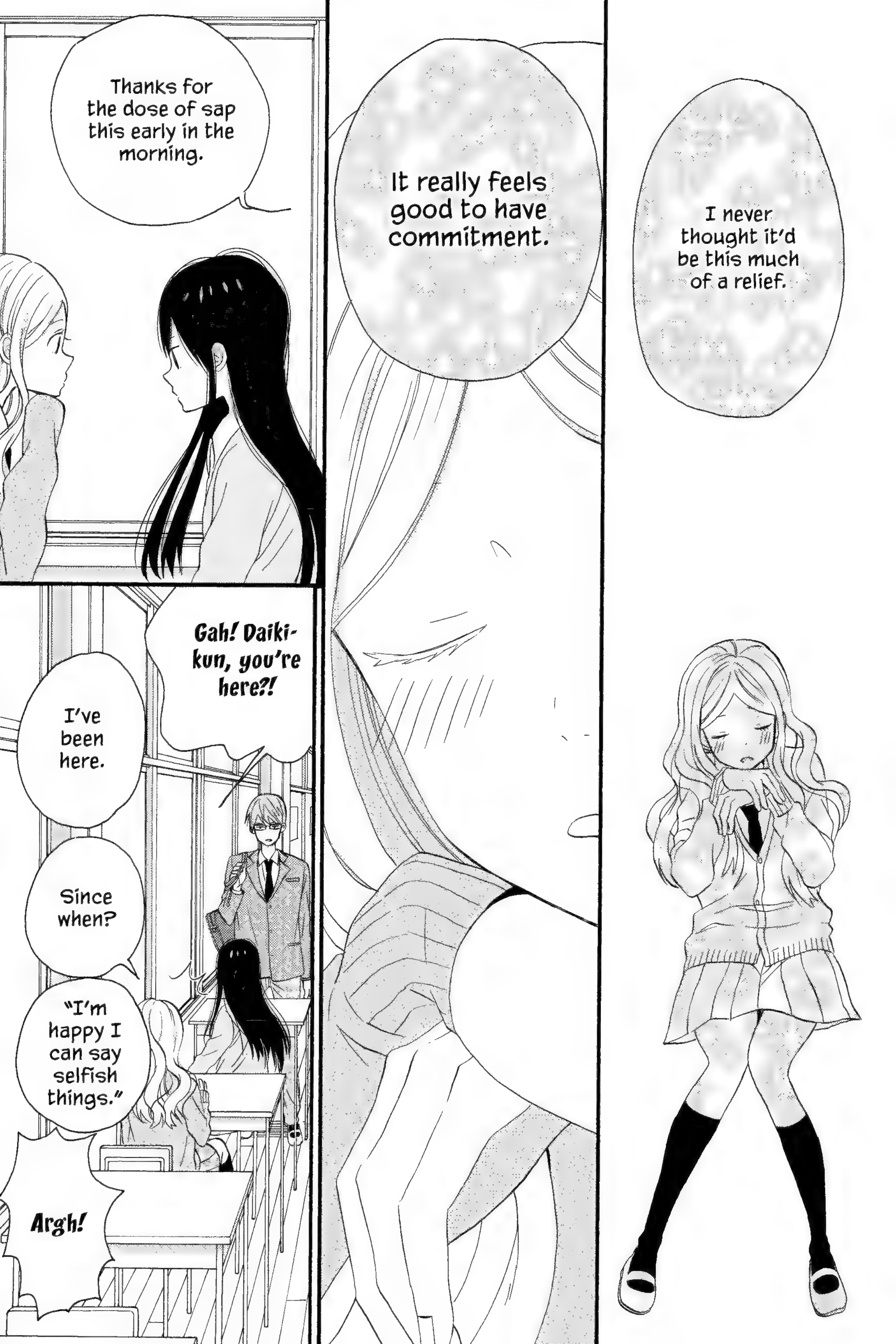

There are a lot of women customers, so probably something romantic.
A romantic sword-fighting show, huh...
Forget the sword-fighting.
It's all gonna be... "I like you."
"I love you." That kind of stuff.
I-I see...
Like and love and all that...
What's with that reaction? I wasn't saying it to you.
I know that!
You've been acting weird since last night, Mao.

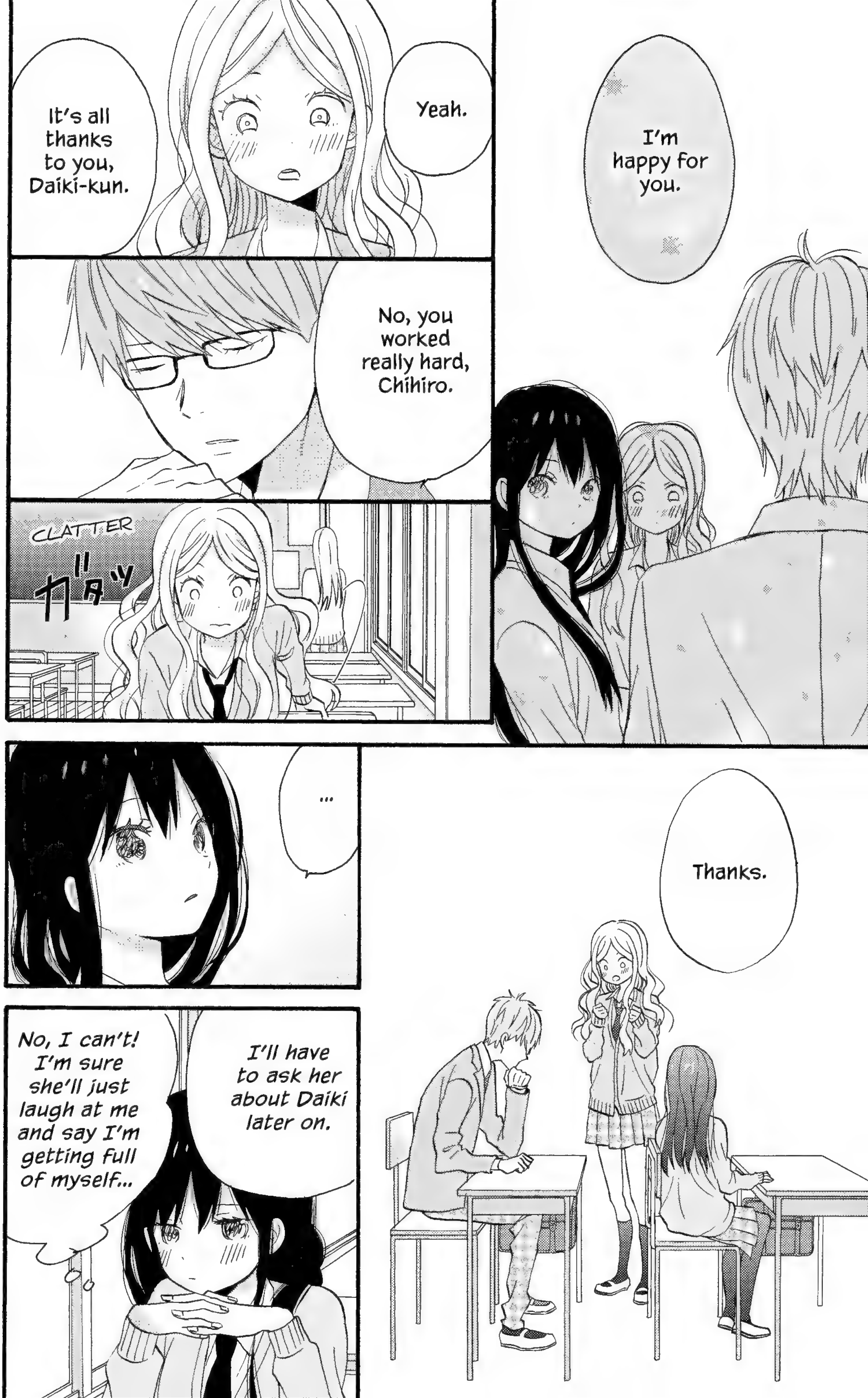

I have not!
You're the one acting weird! I'm going ahead!
Argh.
I need to talk to Chi-chan.
...
Uh.
We started dating.

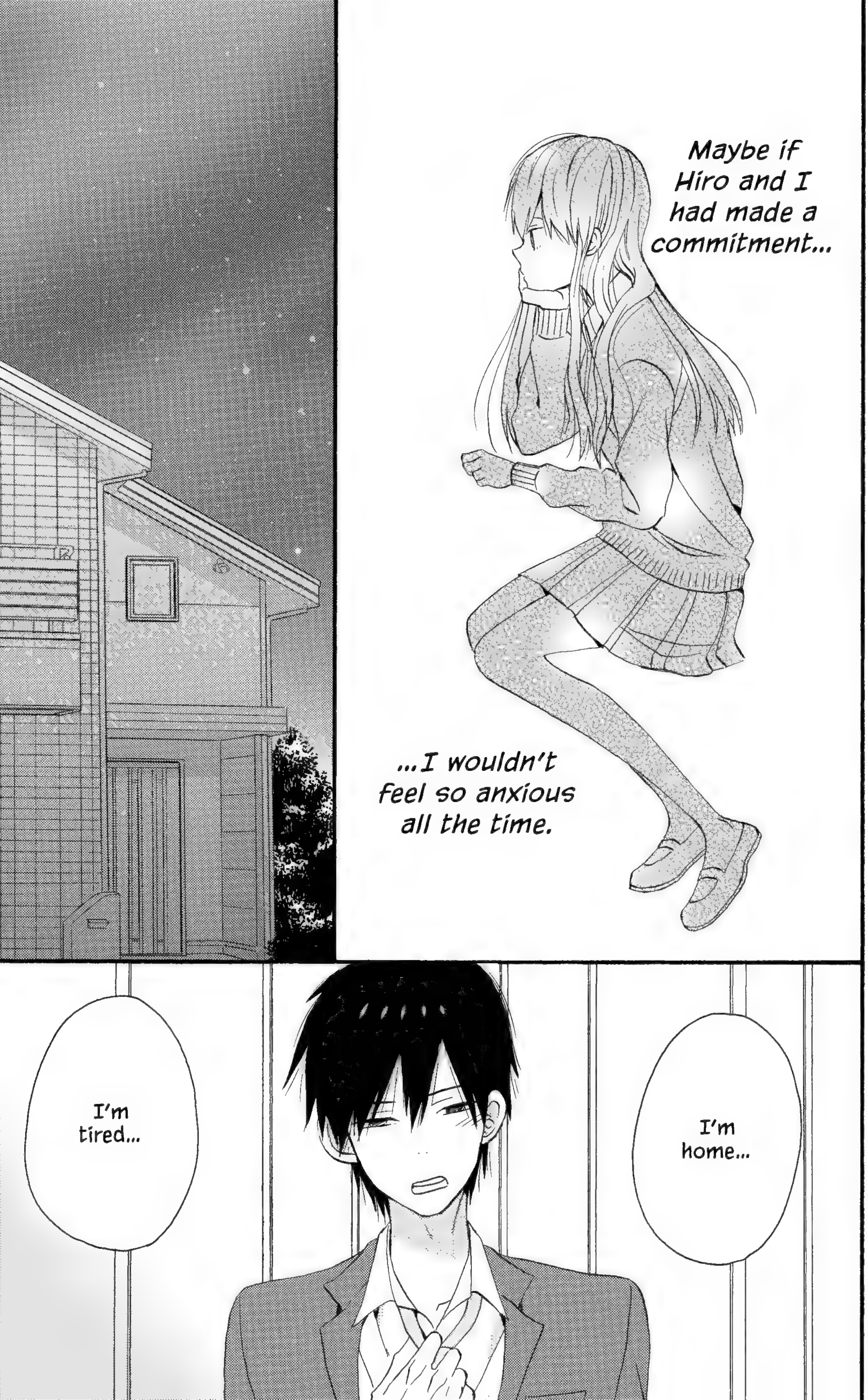

Whaaaat?!
Shh! Shh! You're yelling...
Wh- Yesterday? After that? That's how it ended up?!
Yeah...
We talked for ages after that.
A-about what...?
We mostly just chatted~
Oooh...
Oooh...
Chi-chan...
...belongs to somebody...!

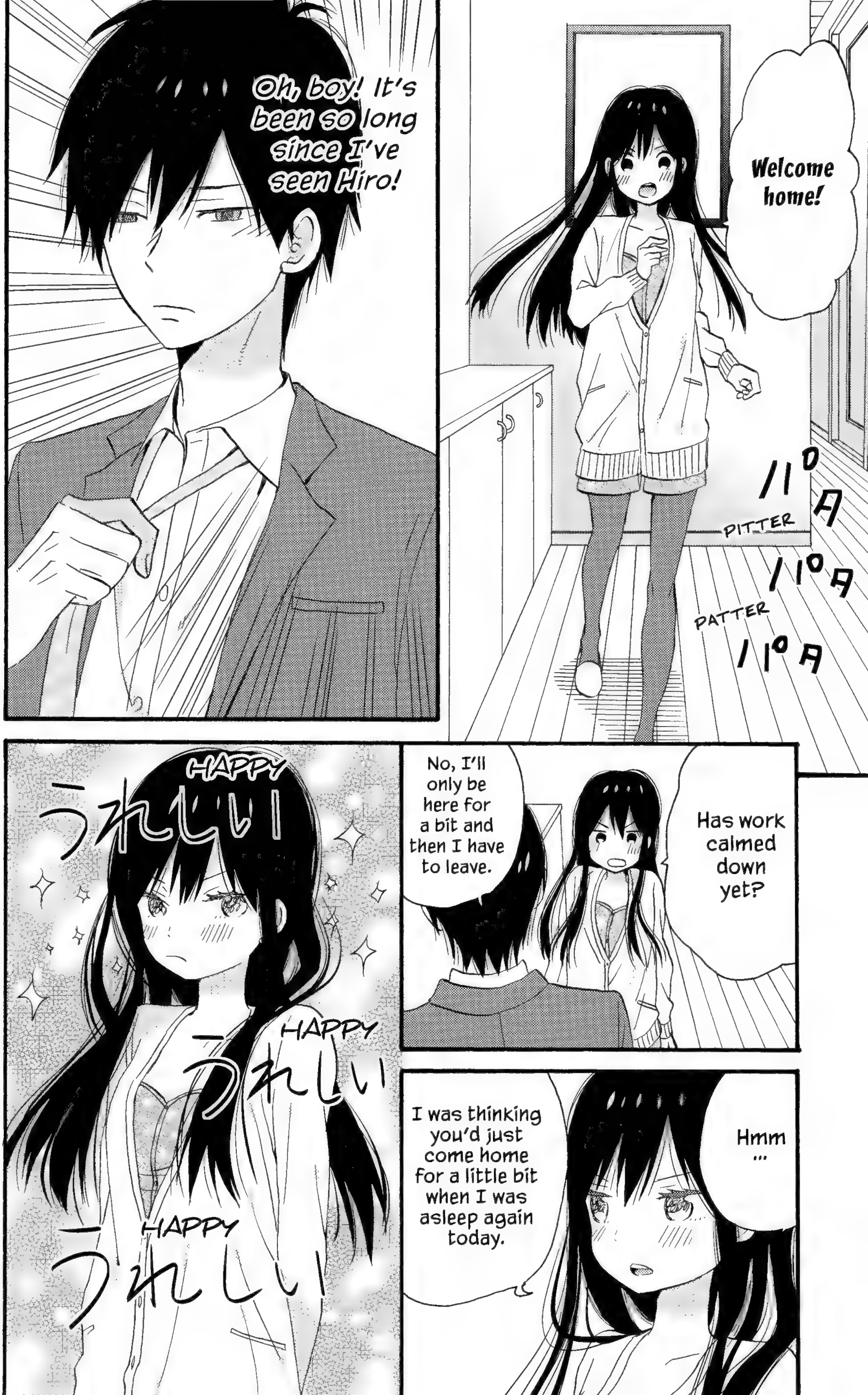

RUMMMBLE...
ゴゴゴゴ
When I think about how your first priority's gonna be Oda-kun from now on, it kind of pisses me o— I mean, makes me sad!
That's not how it is...
But...
...I'm happy that I'll be able to say selfish things to Oda-kun...
Like, "Don't be friends with other girls."
Oh, but I'm not actually going to say it! I'm going to be patient for a while.
For a while.
Hee hee...
It's nice to have this stuff to worry about now.

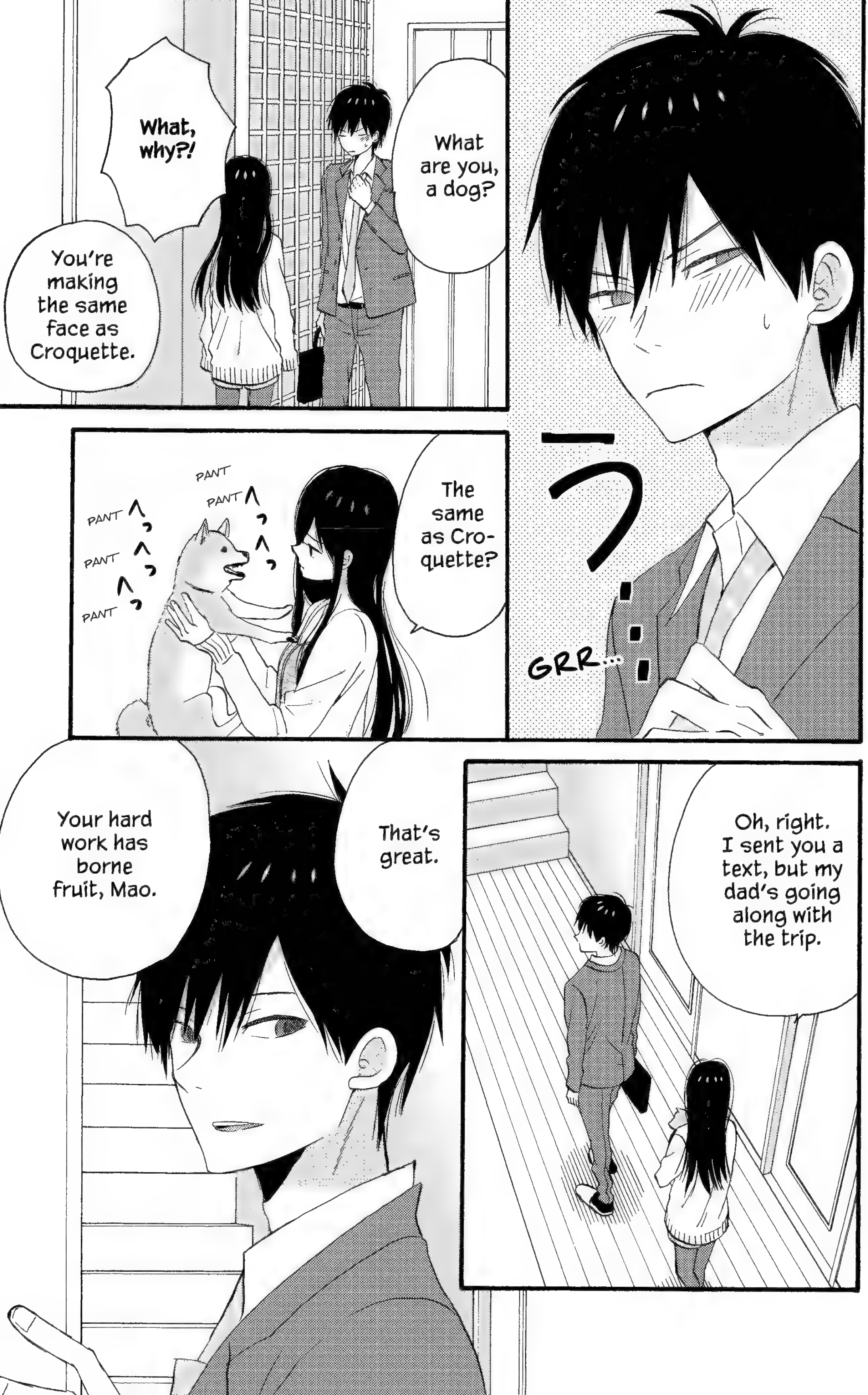

Chi-chan...
...looks so happy.
You know...
...there was a time when I was putting on a brave face and acting like I didn't really care one way or the other whether we ever started dating.
But I was totally wrong.

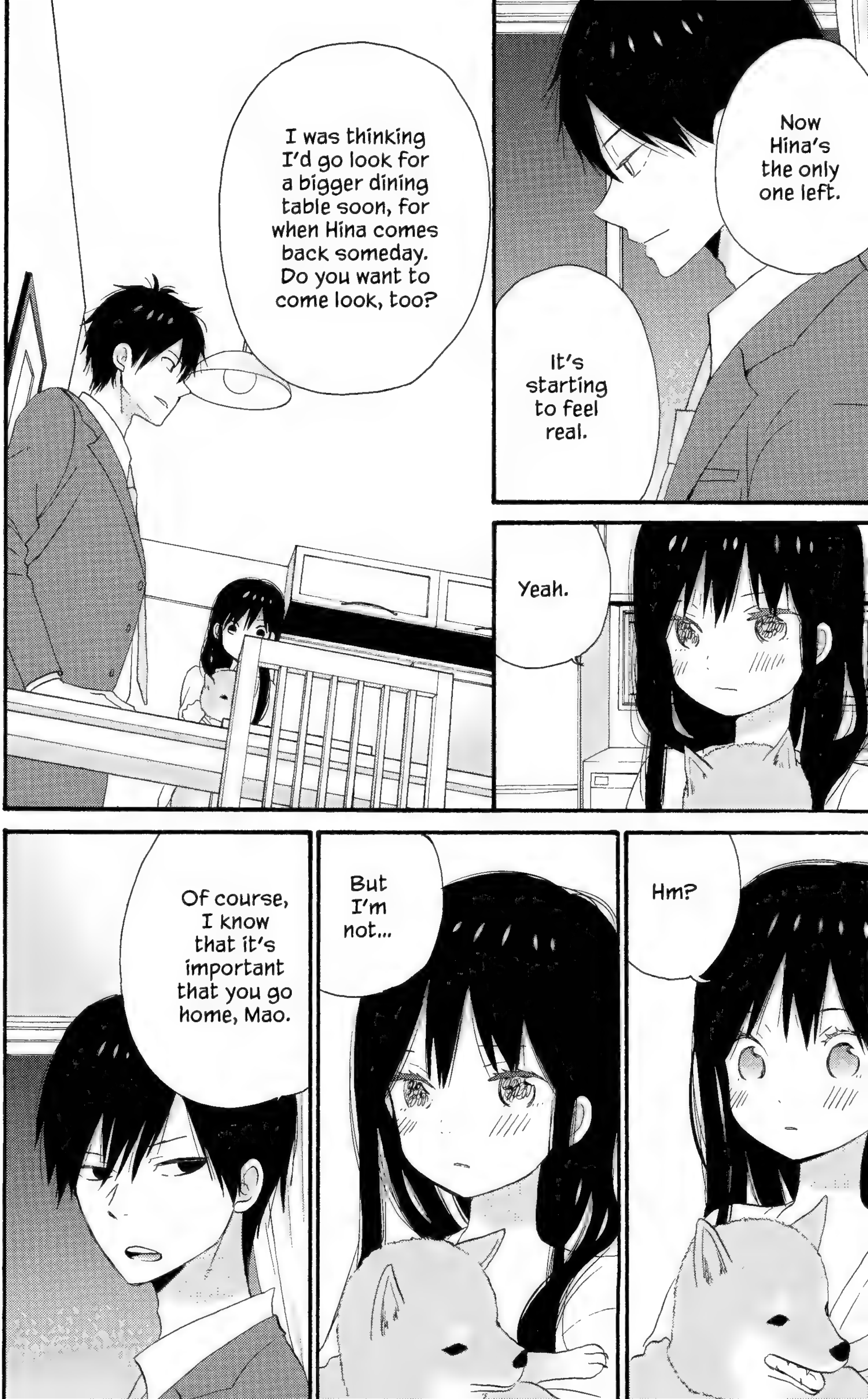

I never thought it'd be this much of a relief.
It really feels good to have commitment.
Thanks for the dose of sap this early in the morning.
Gah! Daiki-kun, you're here?!
I've been here.
Since when?
"I'm happy I can say selfish things."
Argh!

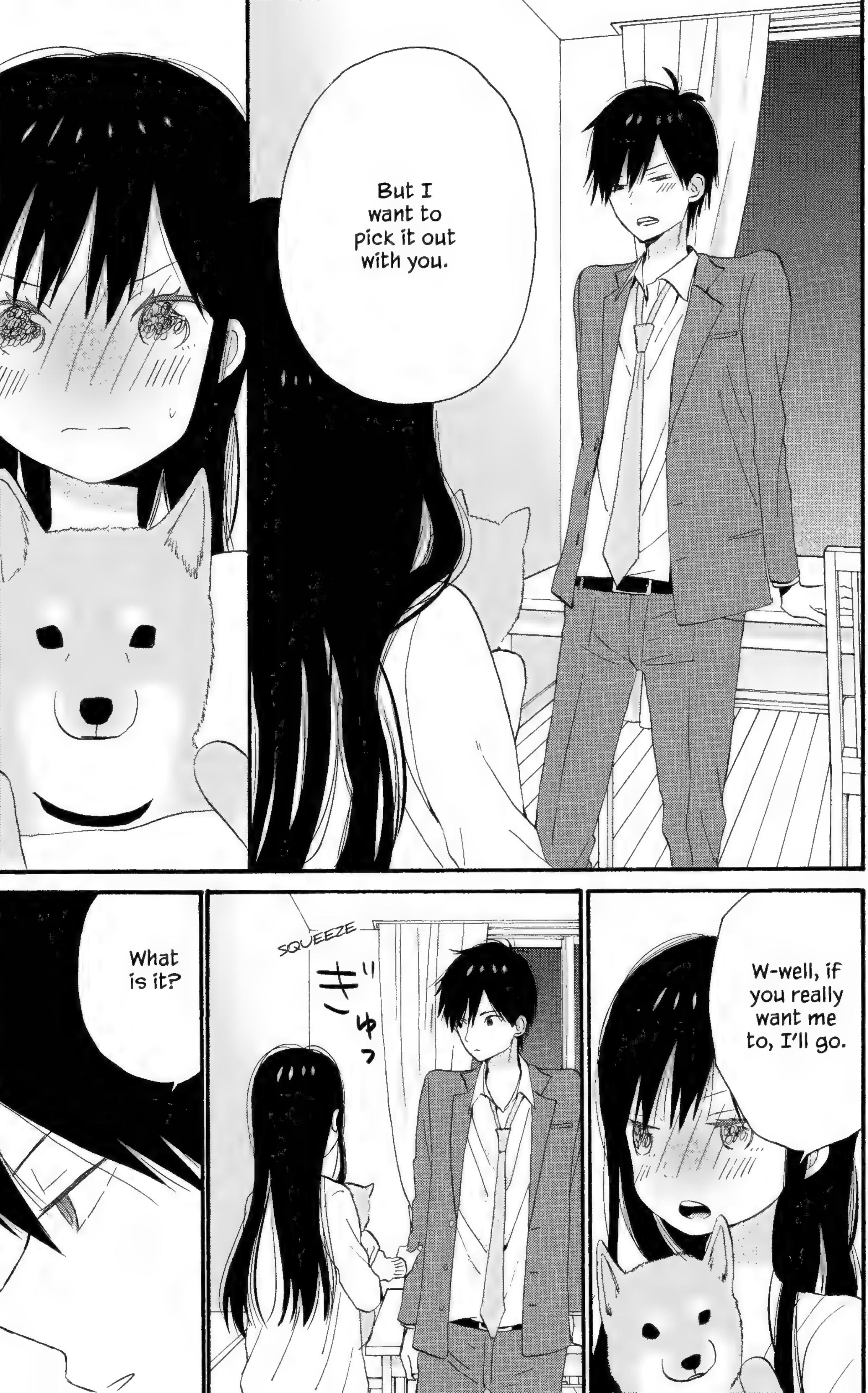

I'm happy for you.
Yeah.
It's all thanks to you, Daiki-kun.
No, you worked really hard, Chihiro.
CLATTER
ガタッ
Thanks.
...
I'll have to ask her about Daiki later on.
No, I can't! I'm sure she'll just laugh at me and say I'm getting full of myself...

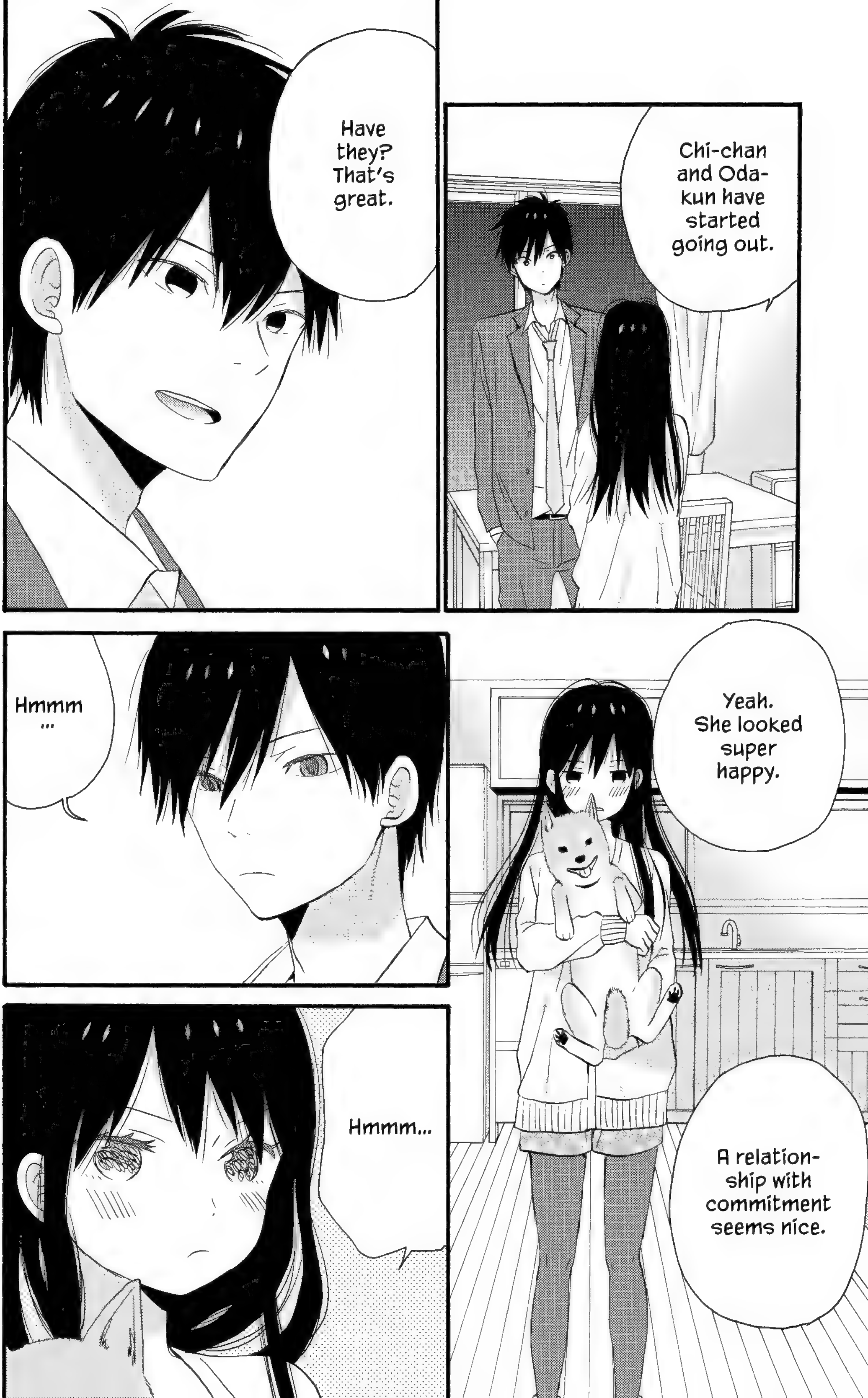

Maybe if Hiro and I had made a commitment...
...I wouldn't feel so anxious all the time.
I'm home...
I'm tired...

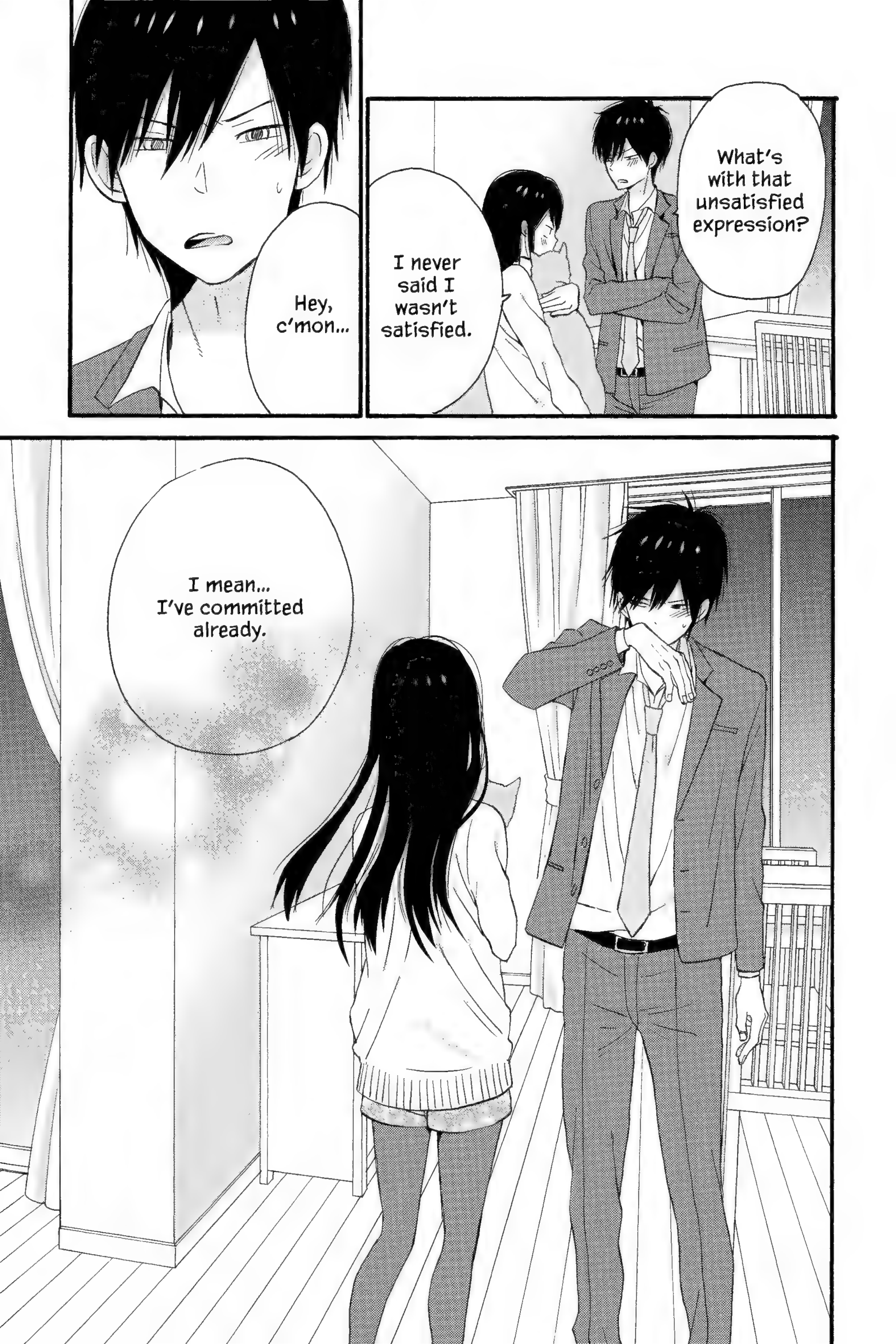

Welcome home!
パタ
PITTER
パタ
PATTER
パタ
Oh, boy! It's been so long since I've seen Hiro!
Has work calmed down yet?
No, I'll only be here for a bit and then I have to leave.
Hmm ...
I was thinking you'd just come home for a little bit when I was asleep again today.
HAPPY
うれしい
HAPPY
うれしい
HAPPY
うれしい

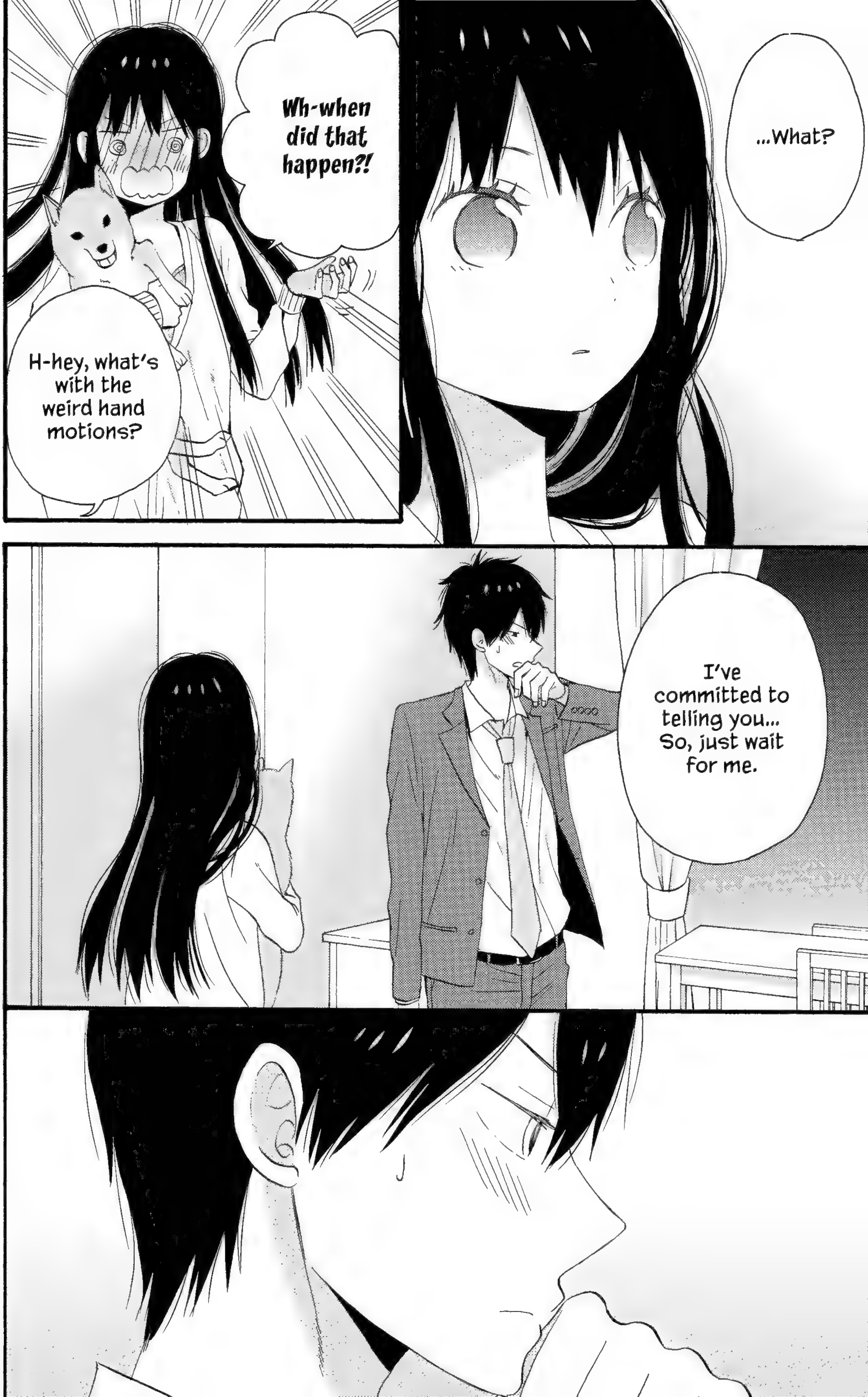

う…
GRR…
What are you, a dog?
What, why?!
You're making the same face as Croquette.
PANT PANT PANT PANT PANT
The same as Croquette?
Oh, right. I sent you a text, but my dad's going along with the trip.
That's great.
Your hard work has borne fruit, Mao.

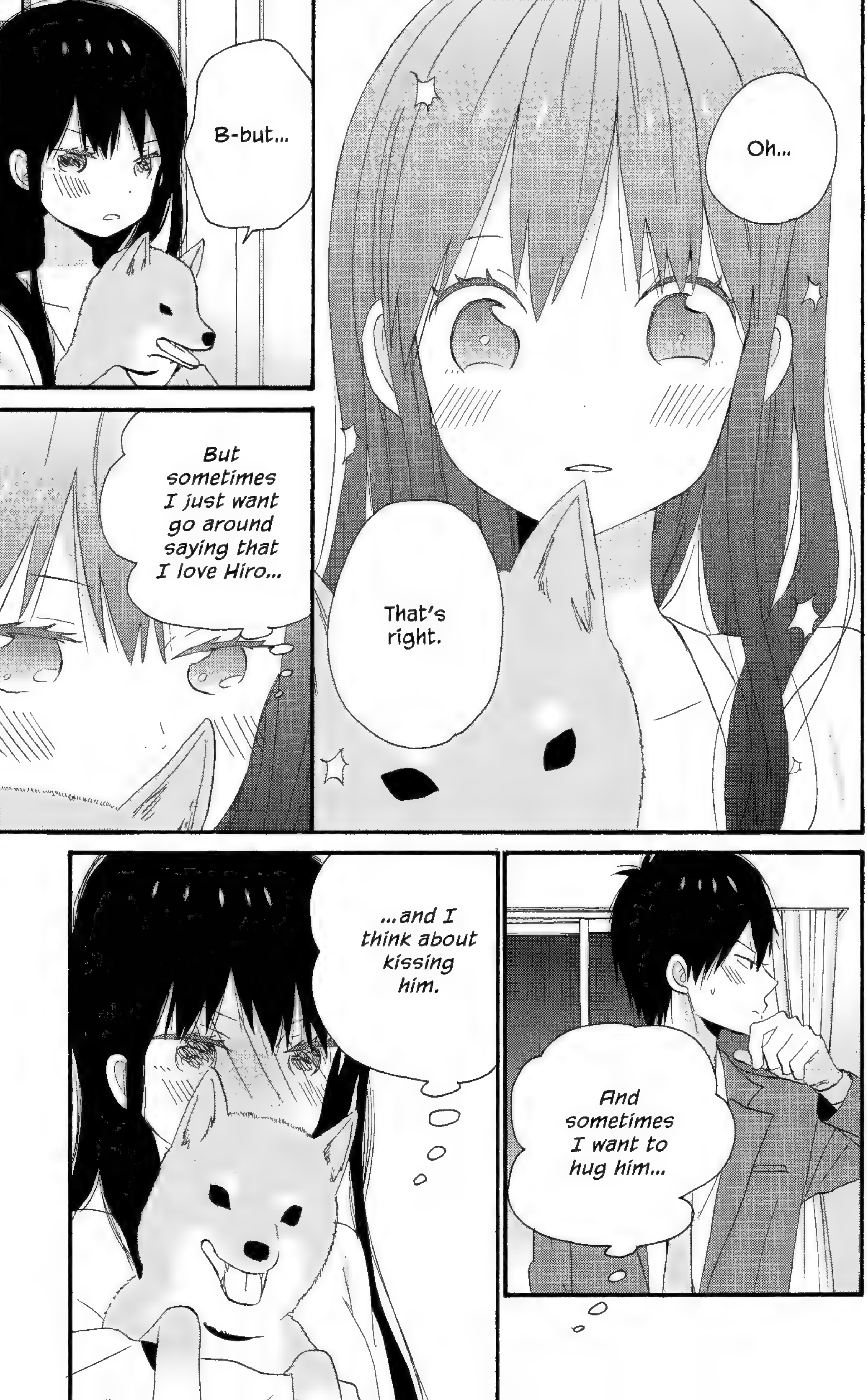

Now Hina's the only one left.
It's starting to feel real.
I was thinking I'd go look for a bigger dining table soon, for when Hina comes back someday. Do you want to come look, too?
Yeah.
Hm?
But I'm not...
Of course, I know that it's important that you go home, Mao.

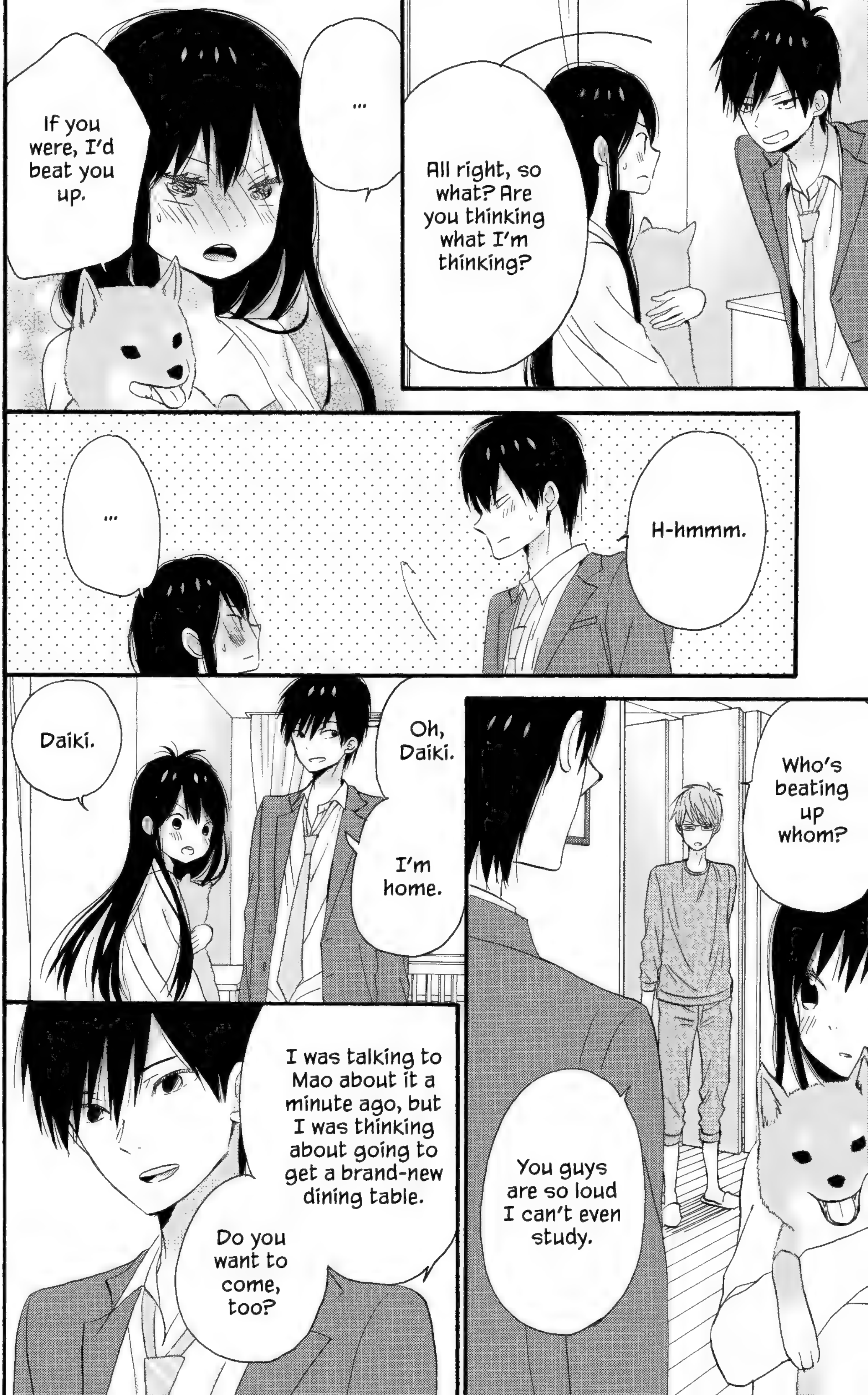

But I want to pick it out with you.
W-well, if you really want me to, I'll go.
ぎゅっ
SQUEEZE
What is it?

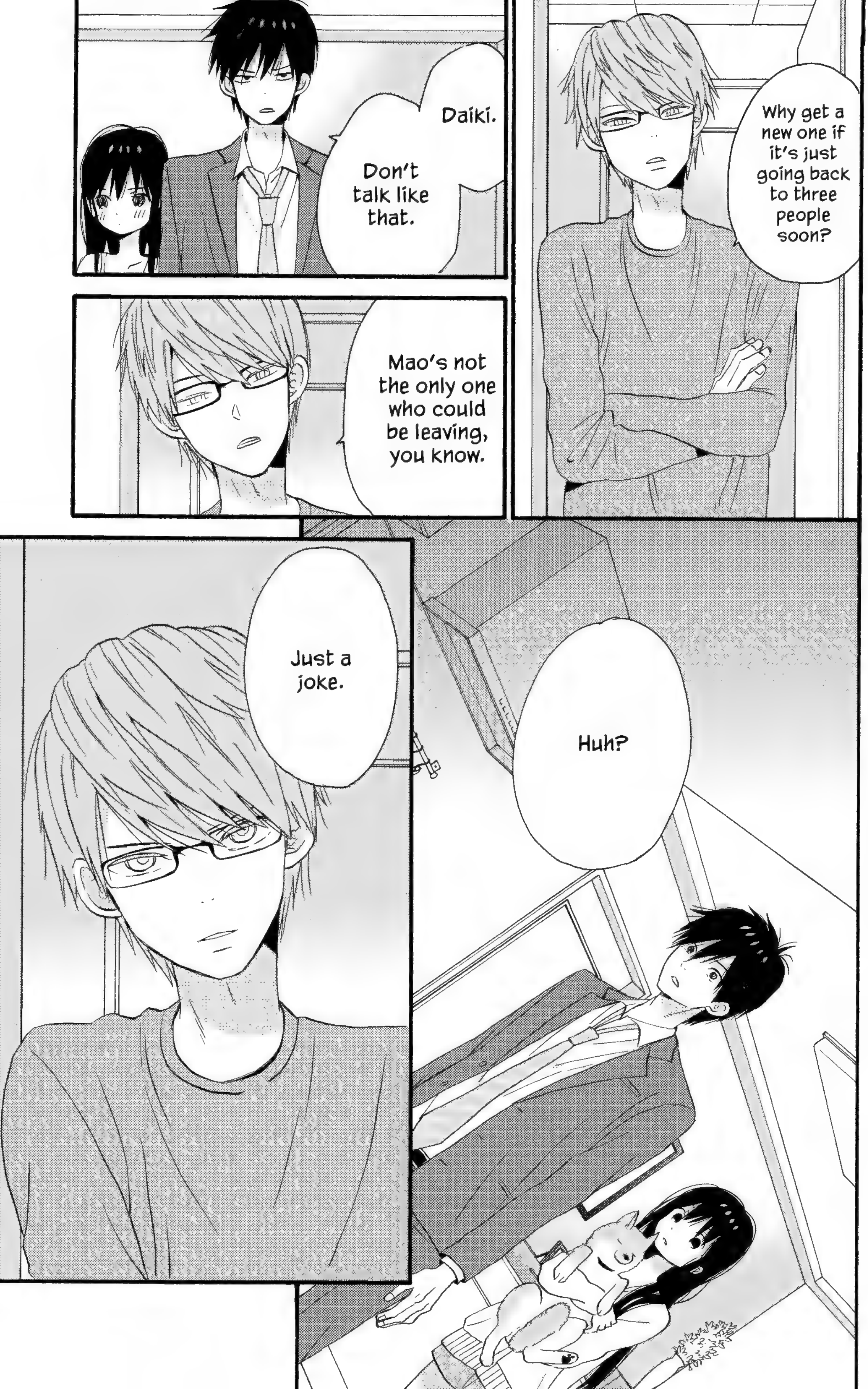

Chi-chan and Oda-kun have started going out.
Have they? That's great.
Yeah. She looked super happy.
A relationship with commitment seems nice.
Hmmm...
Hmmm...

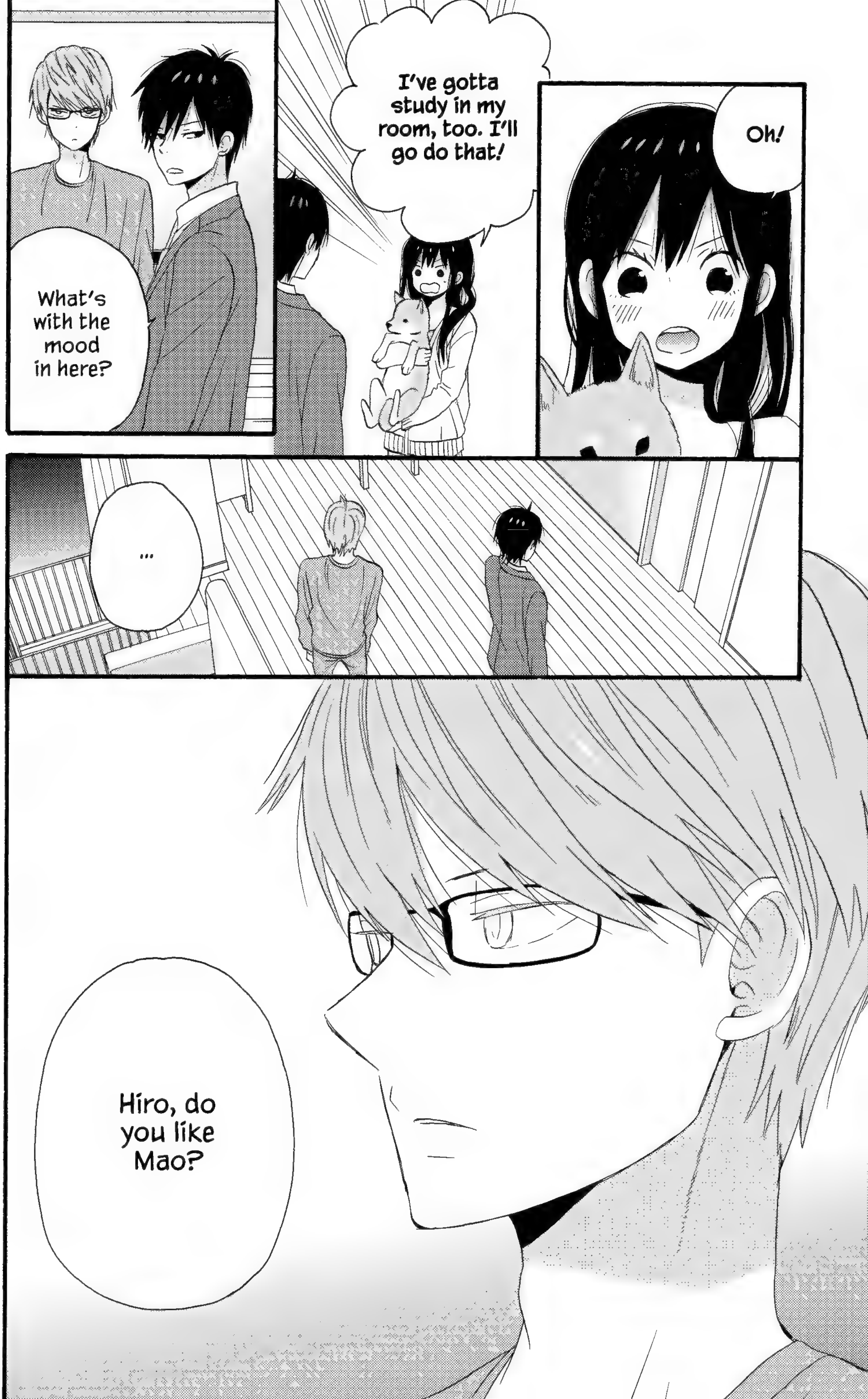

What's with that unsatisfied expression?
I never said I wasn't satisfied.
Hey, c'mon...
I mean... I've committed already.

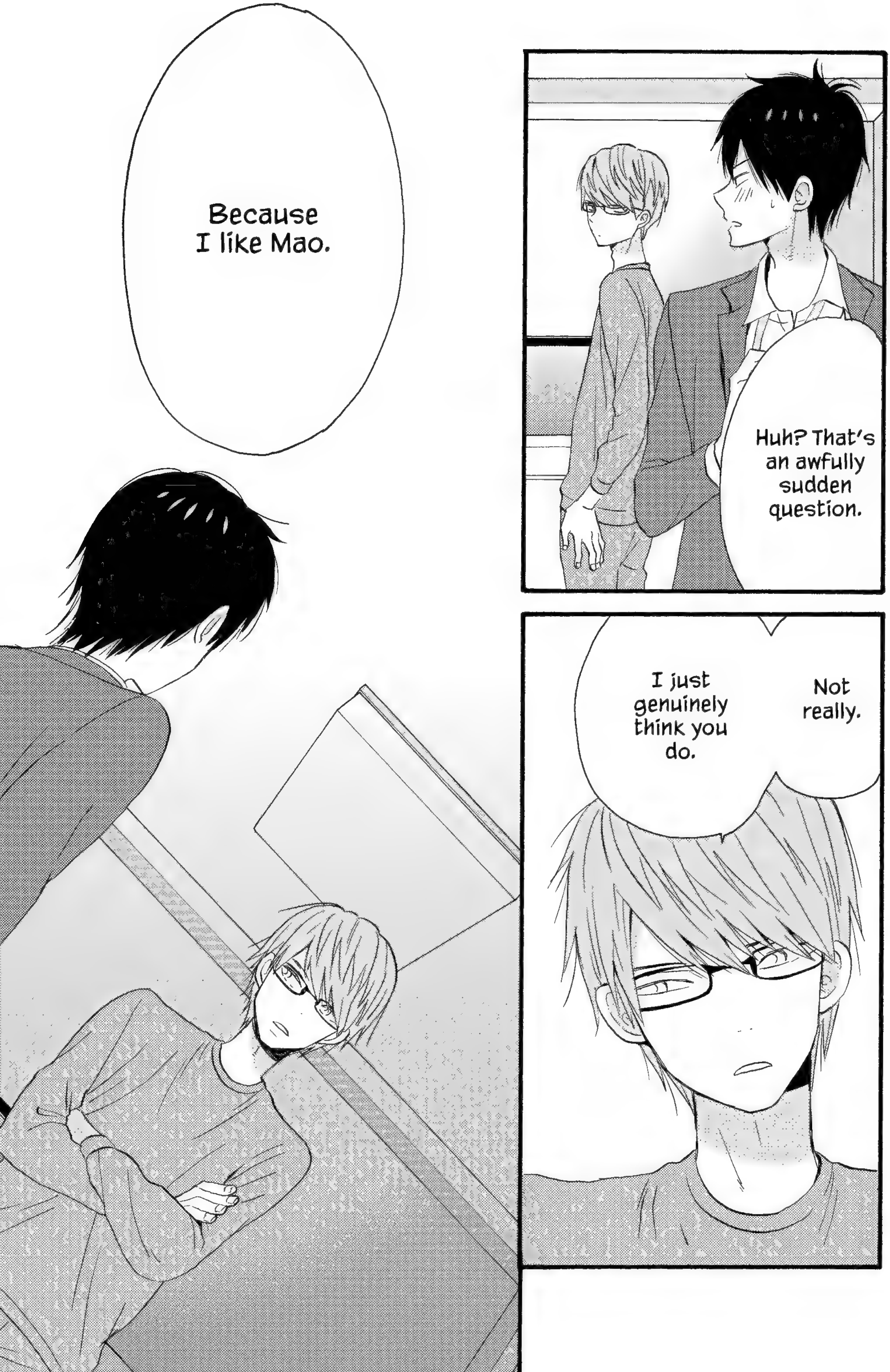

...What?
Wh-when did that happen?!
H-hey, what's with the weird hand motions?
I've committed to telling you... So, just wait for me.

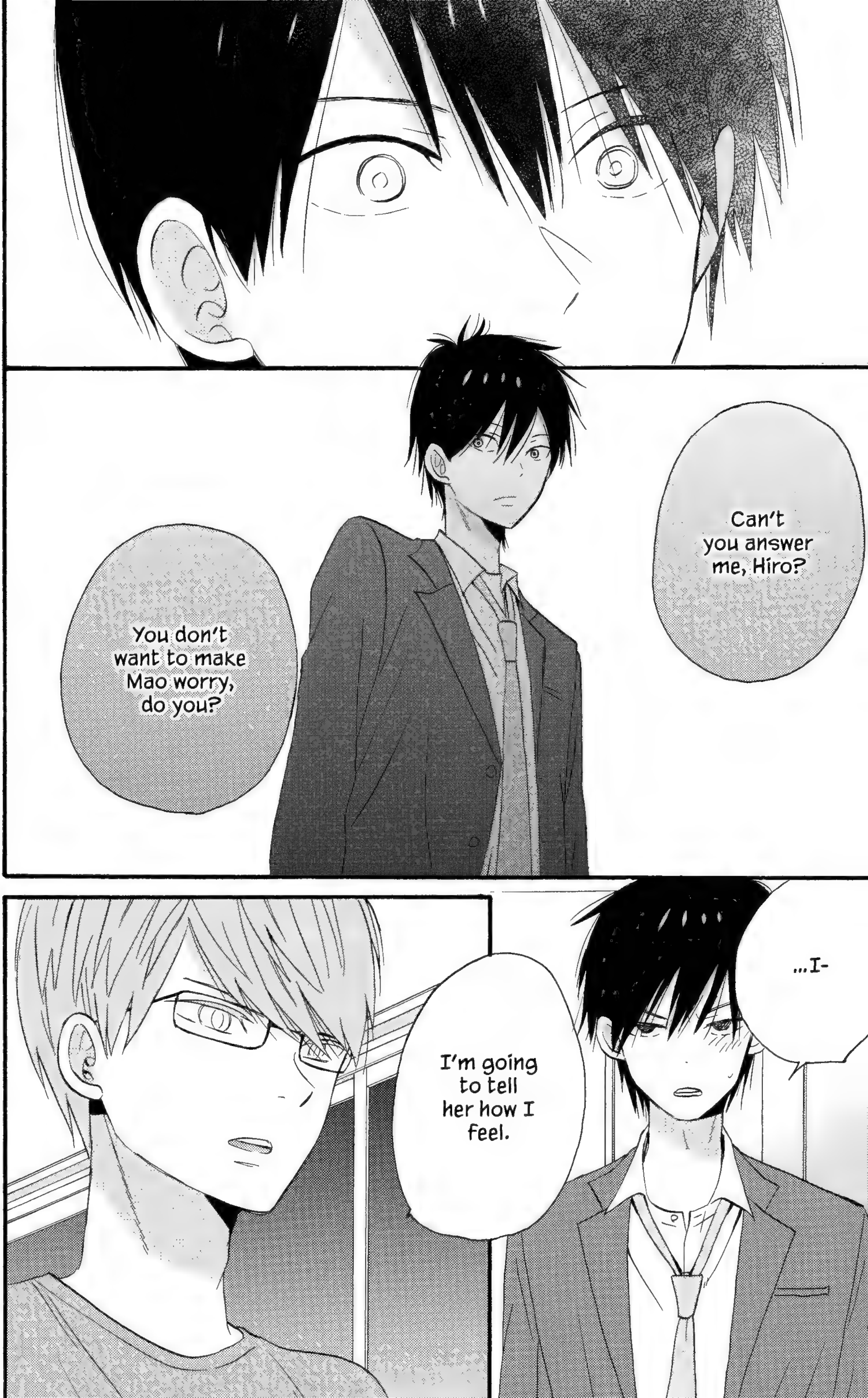

Oh...
That's right.
B-but...
But sometimes I just want go around saying that I love Hiro...
And sometimes I want to hug him...
...and I think about kissing him.

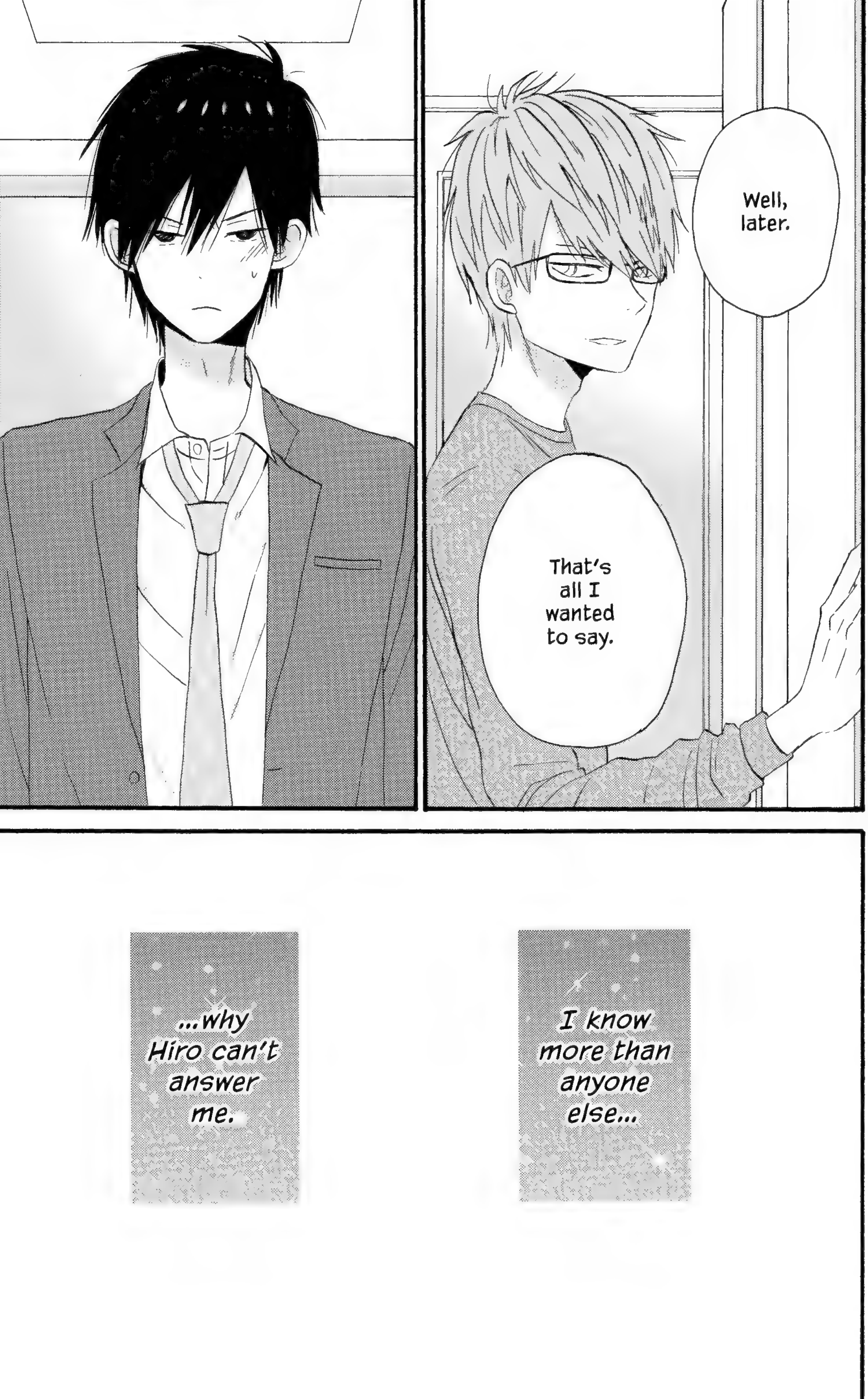

All right, so what? Are you thinking what I'm thinking?
...
If you were, I'd beat you up.
H-hmmm.
...
Who's beating up whom?
You guys are so loud I can't even study.
Daiki.
Oh, Daiki.
I'm home.
I was talking to Mao about it a minute ago, but I was thinking about going to get a brand-new dining table.
Do you want to come, too?

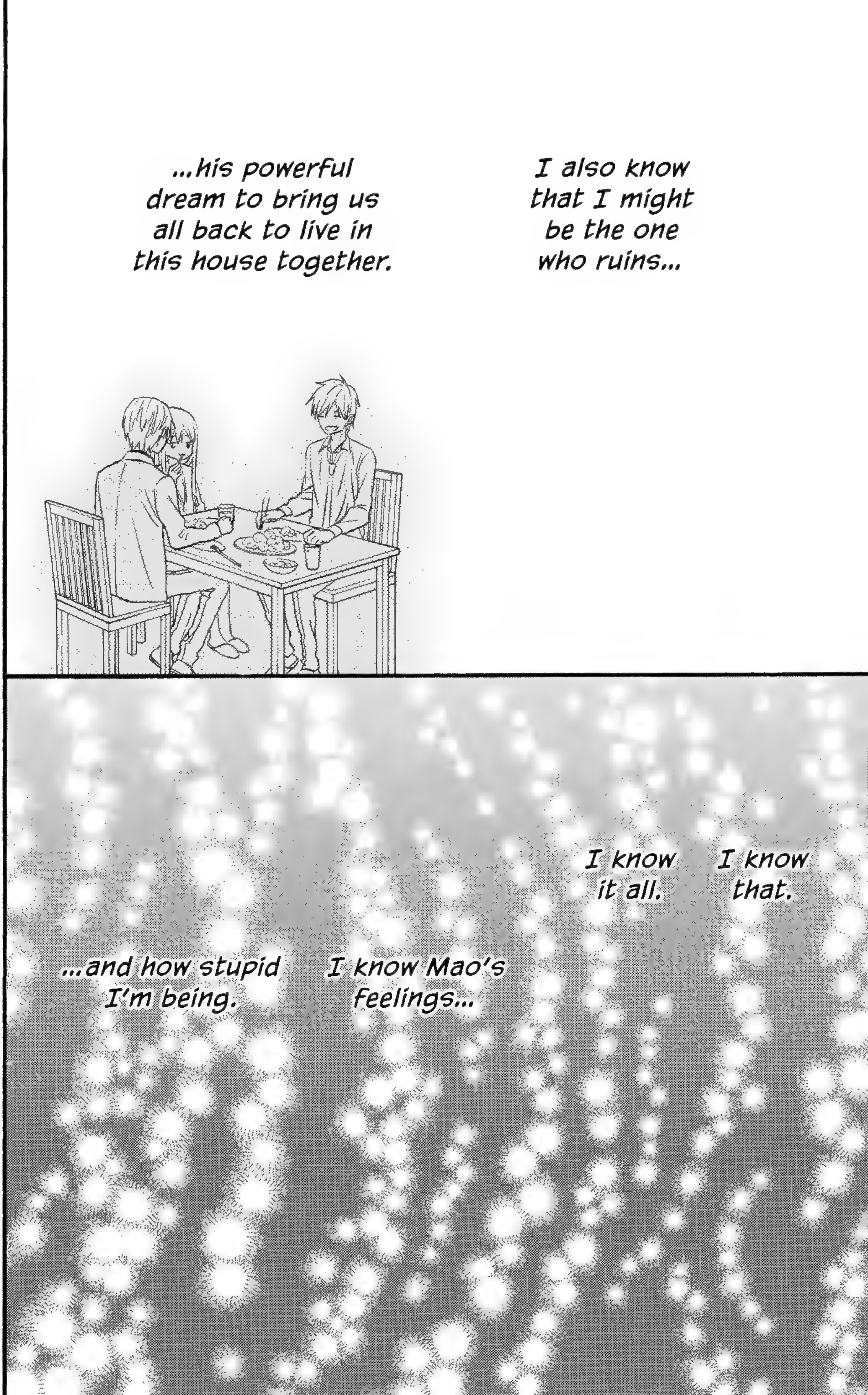

Why get a new one if it's just going back to three people soon?
Daiki.
Don't talk like that.
Mao's not the only one who could be leaving, you know.
Huh?
Just a joke.

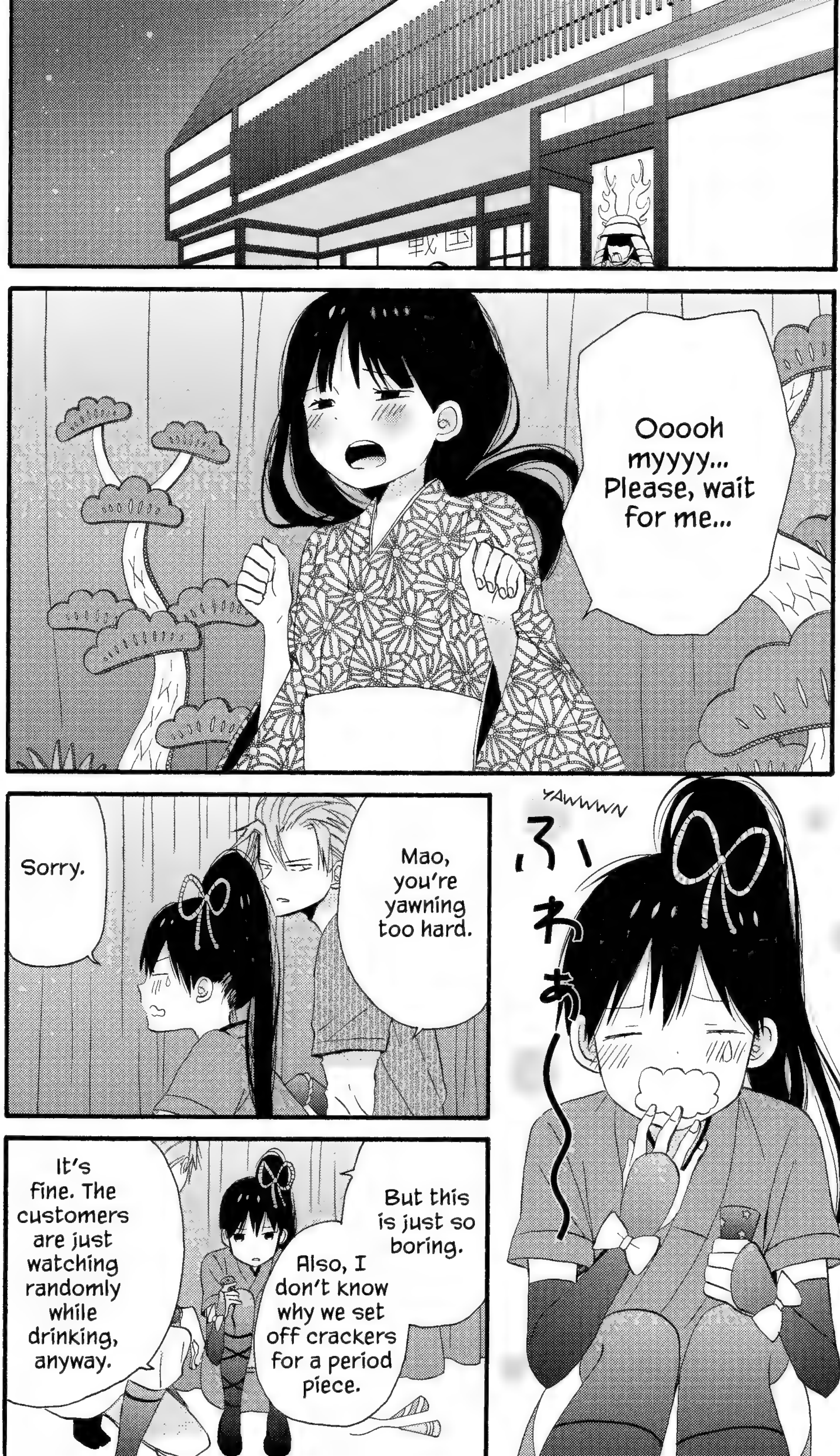

Oh!
I've gotta study in my room, too. I'll go do that!
What's with the mood in here?
...
Hiro, do you like Mao?

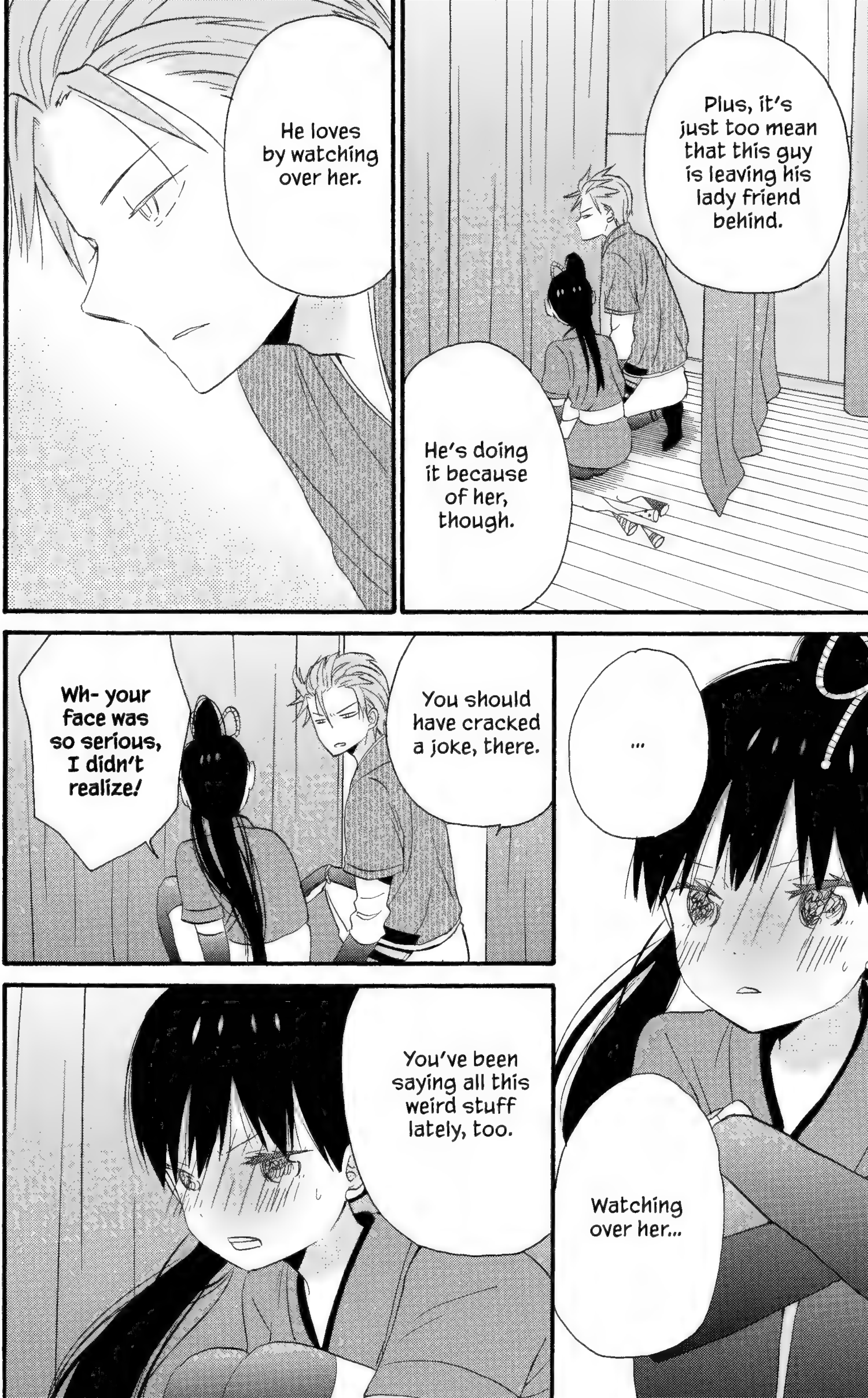

Huh? That's an awfully sudden question.
Not really.
I just genuinely think you do.
Because I like Mao.

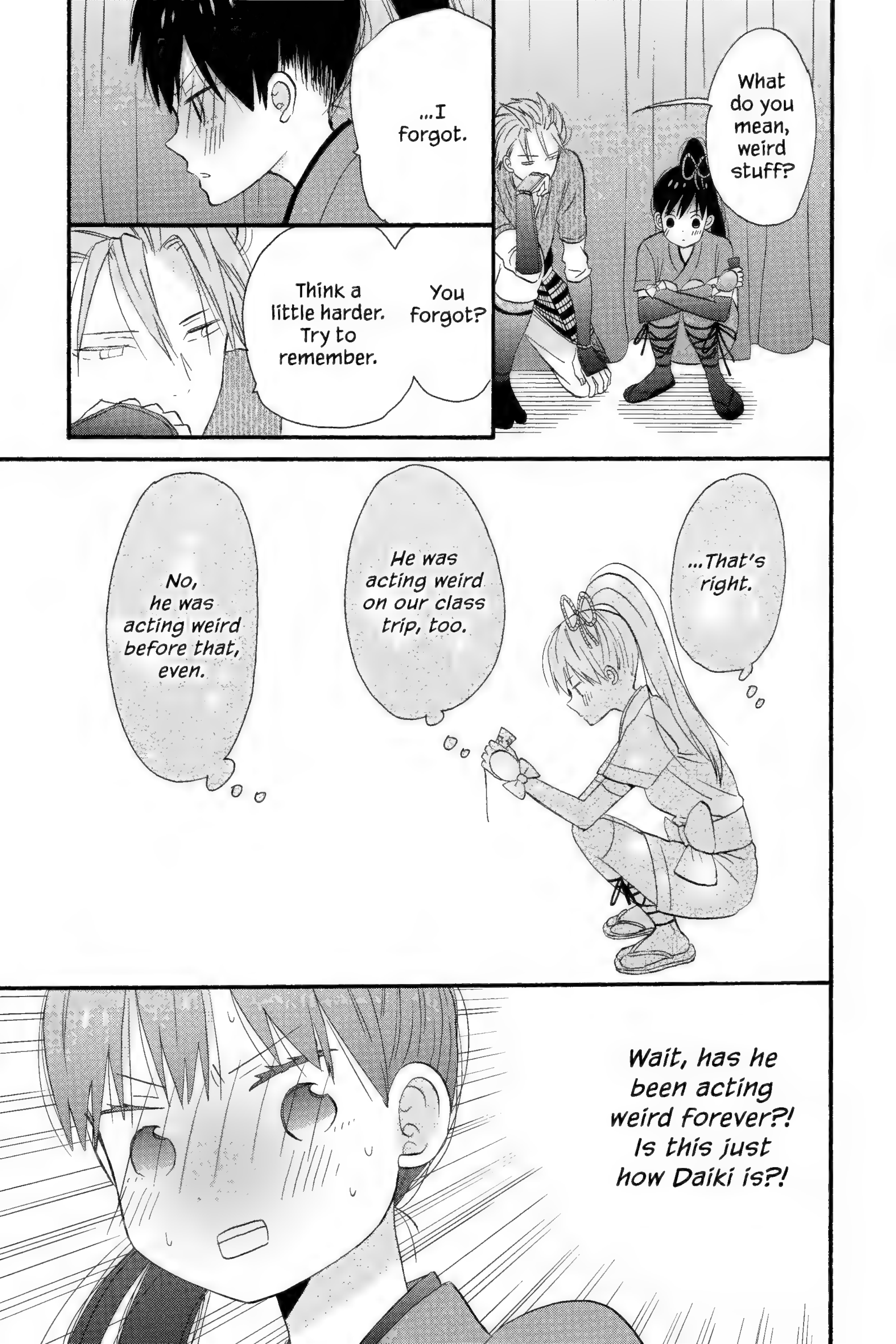

Can't you answer me, Hiro?
You don't want to make Mao worry, do you?
...I-
I'm going to tell her how I feel.

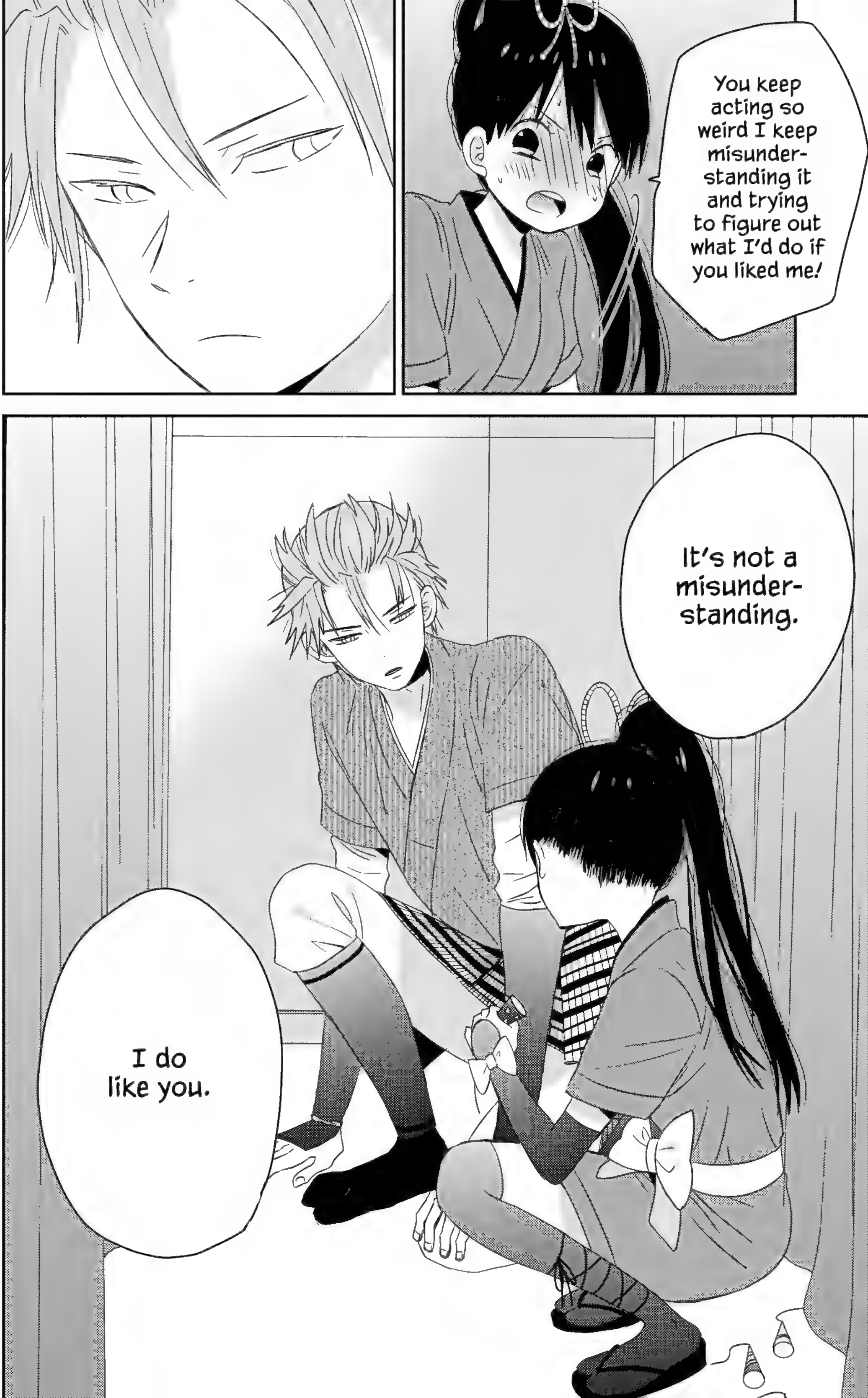

Well, later.
That's all I wanted to say.
I know more than anyone else...
...why Hiro can't answer me.

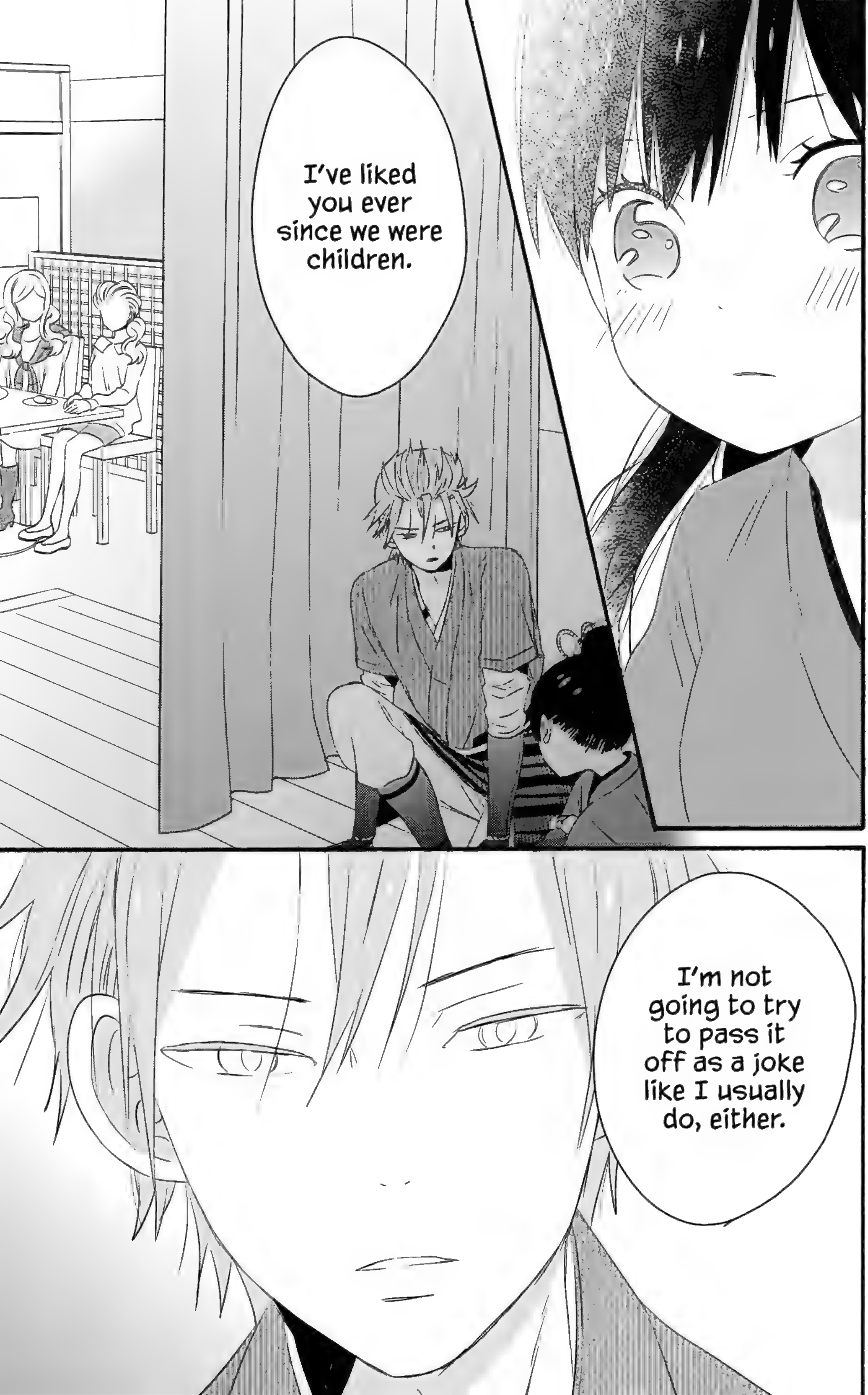

I also know that I might be the one who ruins...
...his powerful dream to bring us all back to live in this house together.
I know that.
I know it all.
I know Mao's feelings...
...and how stupid I'm being.

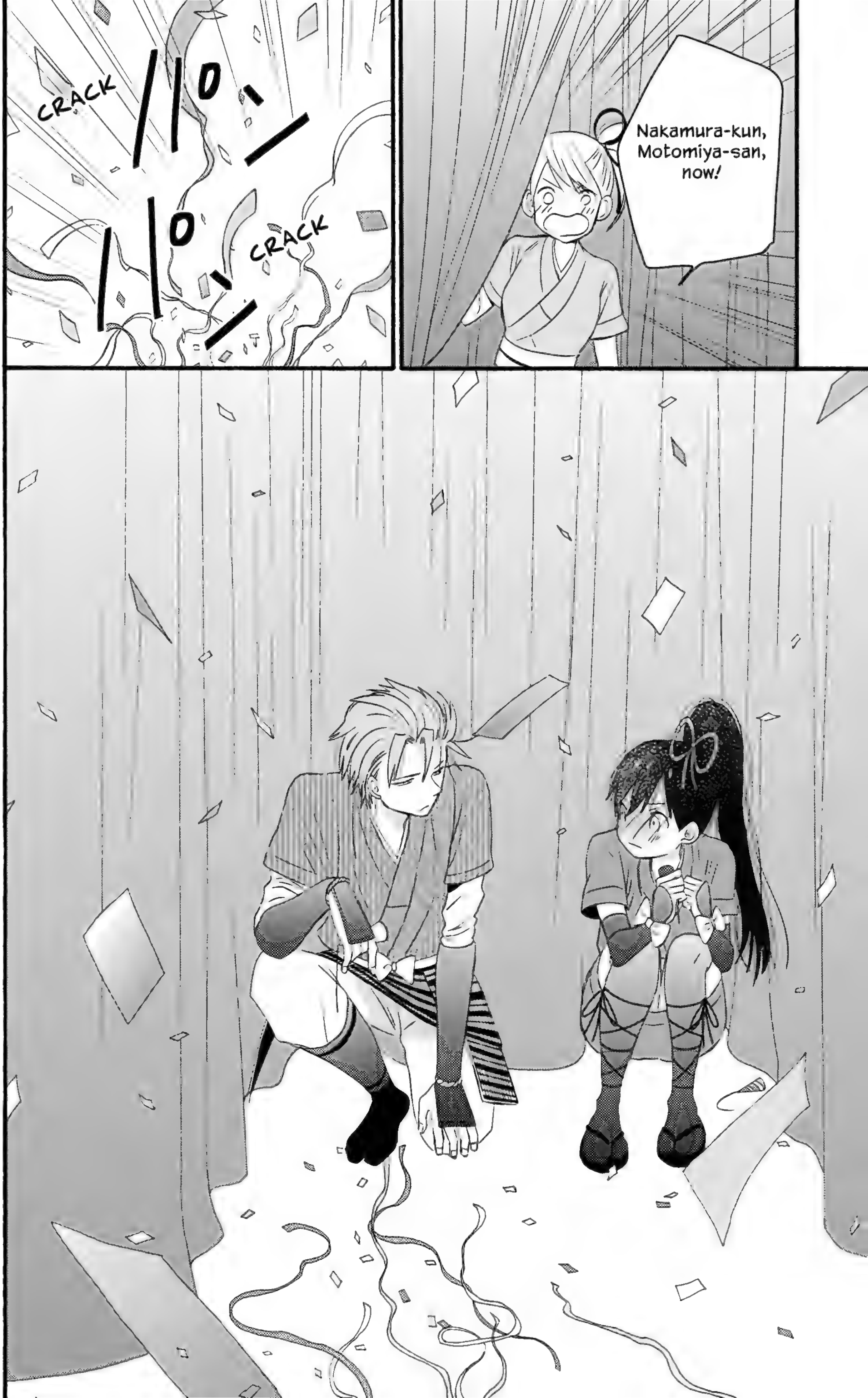

戦国
Ooooh myyyy... Please, wait for me...
YAWWWN
ふわあ〜
Mao, you're yawning too hard.
Sorry.
But this is just so boring.
Also, I don't know why we set off crackers for a period piece.
It's fine. The customers are just watching randomly while drinking, anyway.

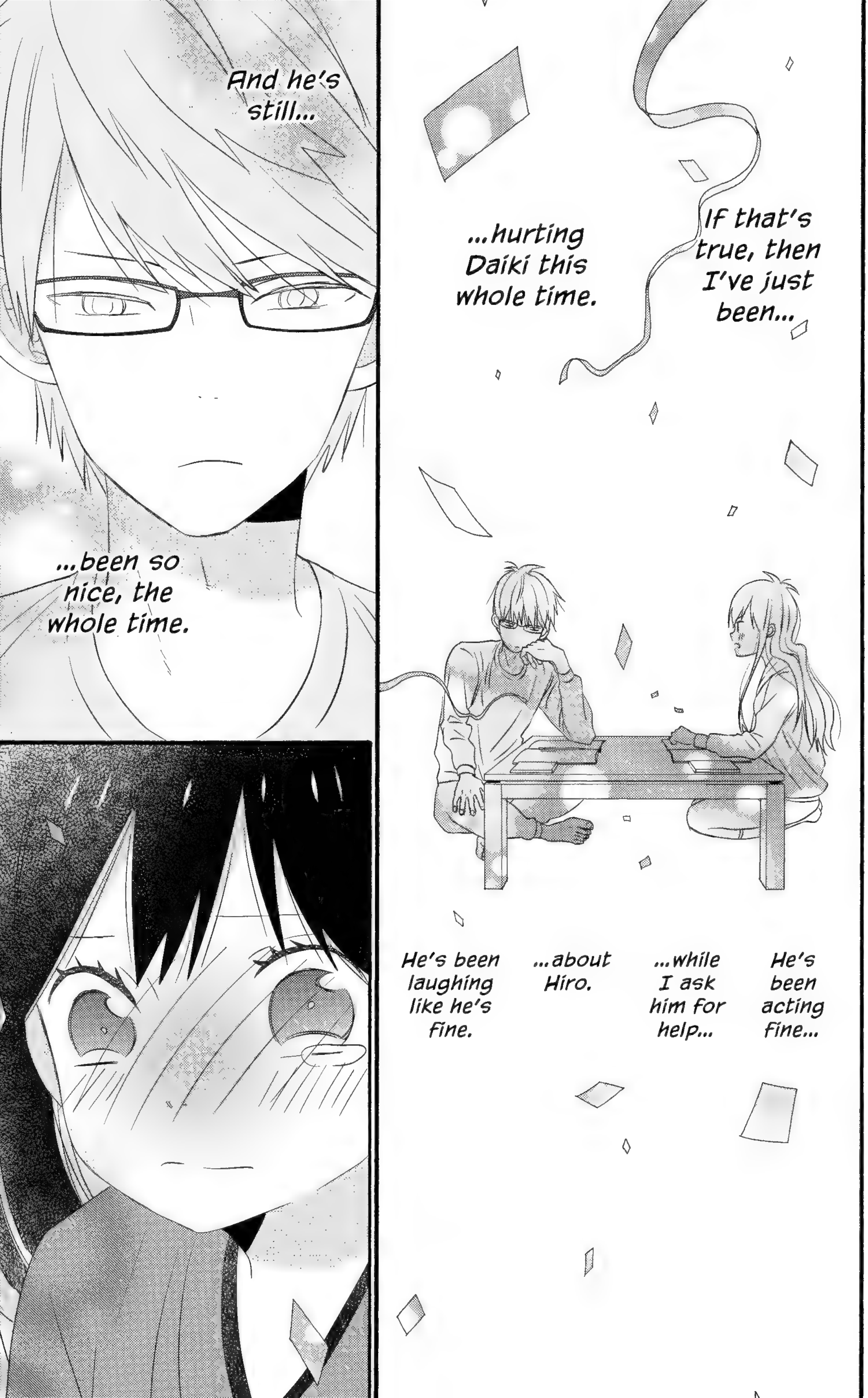

Plus, it's just too mean that this guy is leaving his lady friend behind.
He's doing it because of her, though.
He loves by watching over her.
You should have cracked a joke, there.
Wh- your face was so serious, I didn't realize!
...
You've been saying all this weird stuff lately, too.
Watching over her...

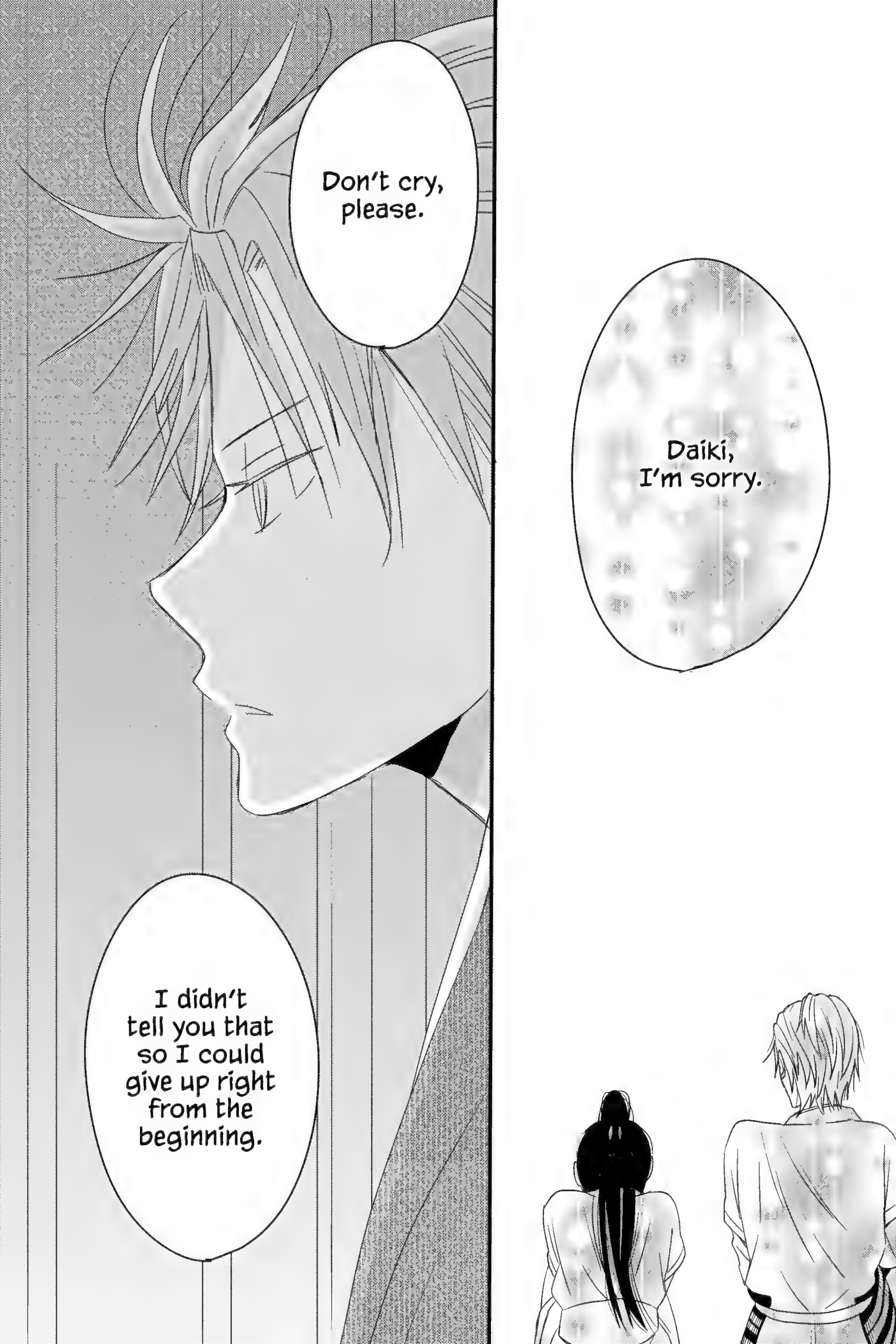

What do you mean, weird stuff?
...I forgot.
You forgot?
Think a little harder. Try to remember.
...That's right.
He was acting weird on our class trip, too.
No, he was acting weird before that, even.
Wait, has he been acting weird forever?! Is this just how Daiki is?!

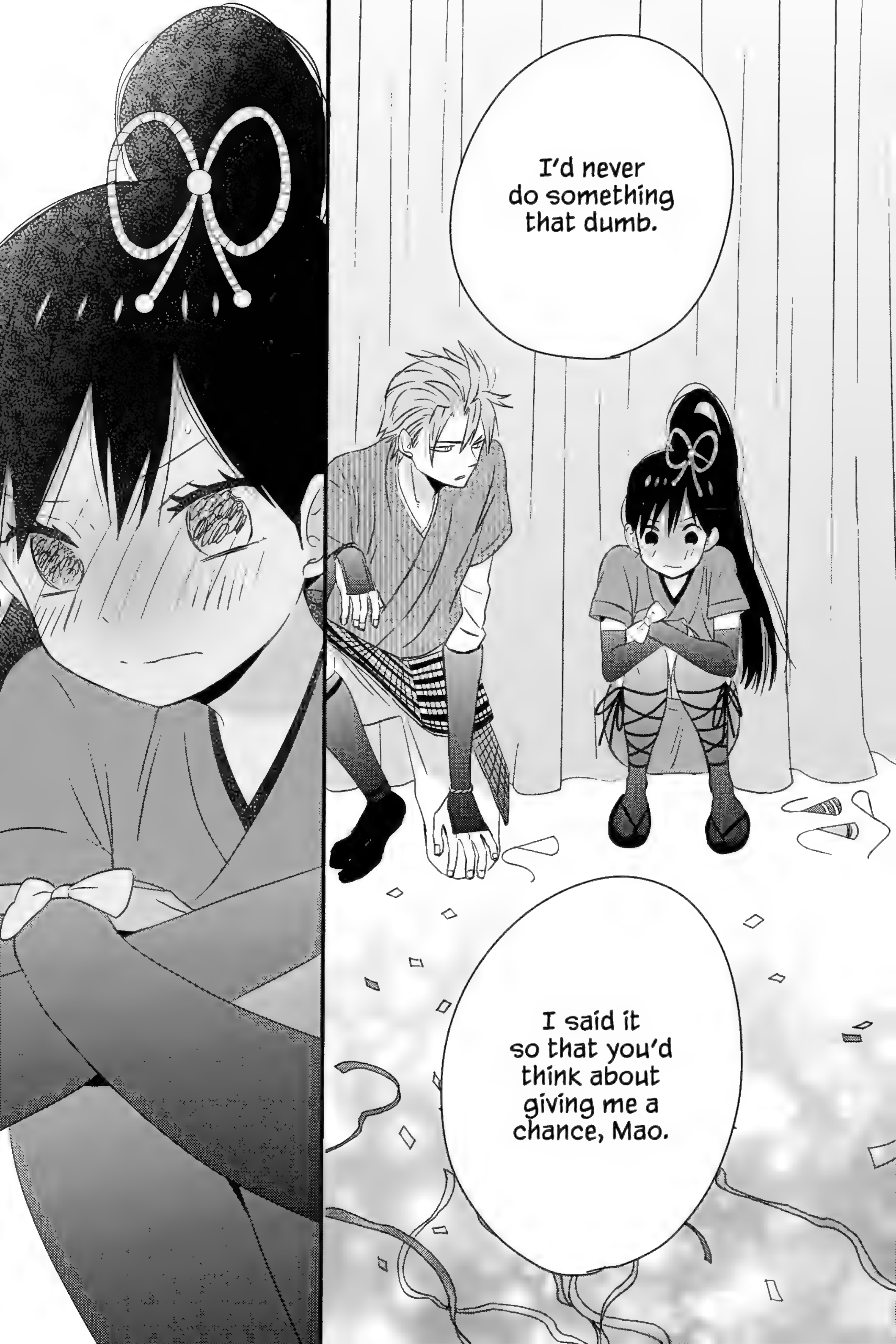

You keep acting so weird I keep misunderstanding it and trying to figure out what I'd do if you liked me!
It's not a misunderstanding.
I do like you.

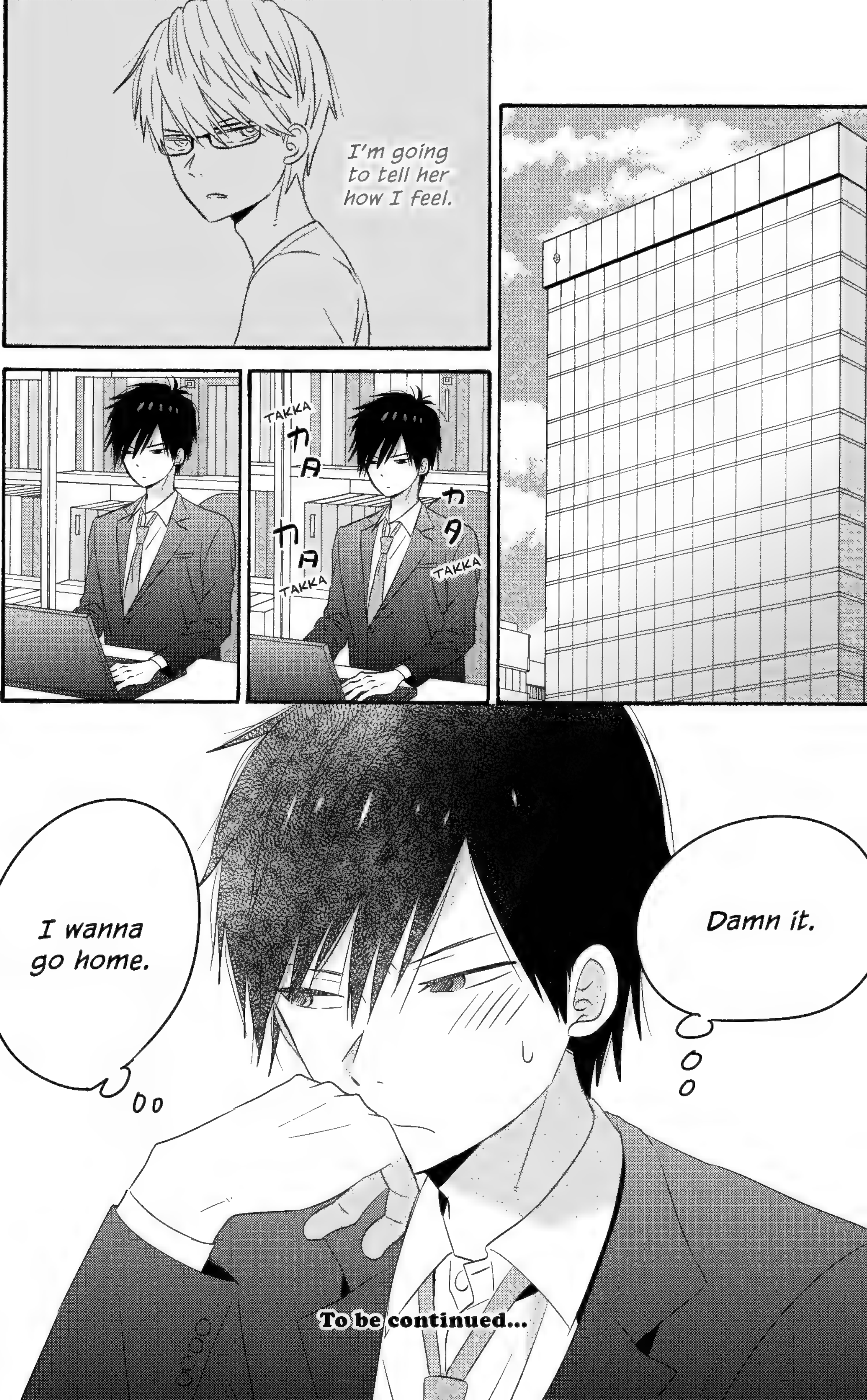

I've liked you ever since we were children.
I'm not going to try to pass it off as a joke like I usually do, either.


Nakamura-kun, Motomiya-san, now!
CRACK
CRACK


If that's true, then I've just been...
...hurting Daiki this whole time.
He's been acting fine...
...while I ask him for help...
...about Hiro.
He's been laughing like he's fine.
And he's still...
...been so nice, the whole time.


Daiki, I'm sorry.
Don't cry, please.
I didn't tell you that so I could give up right from the beginning.

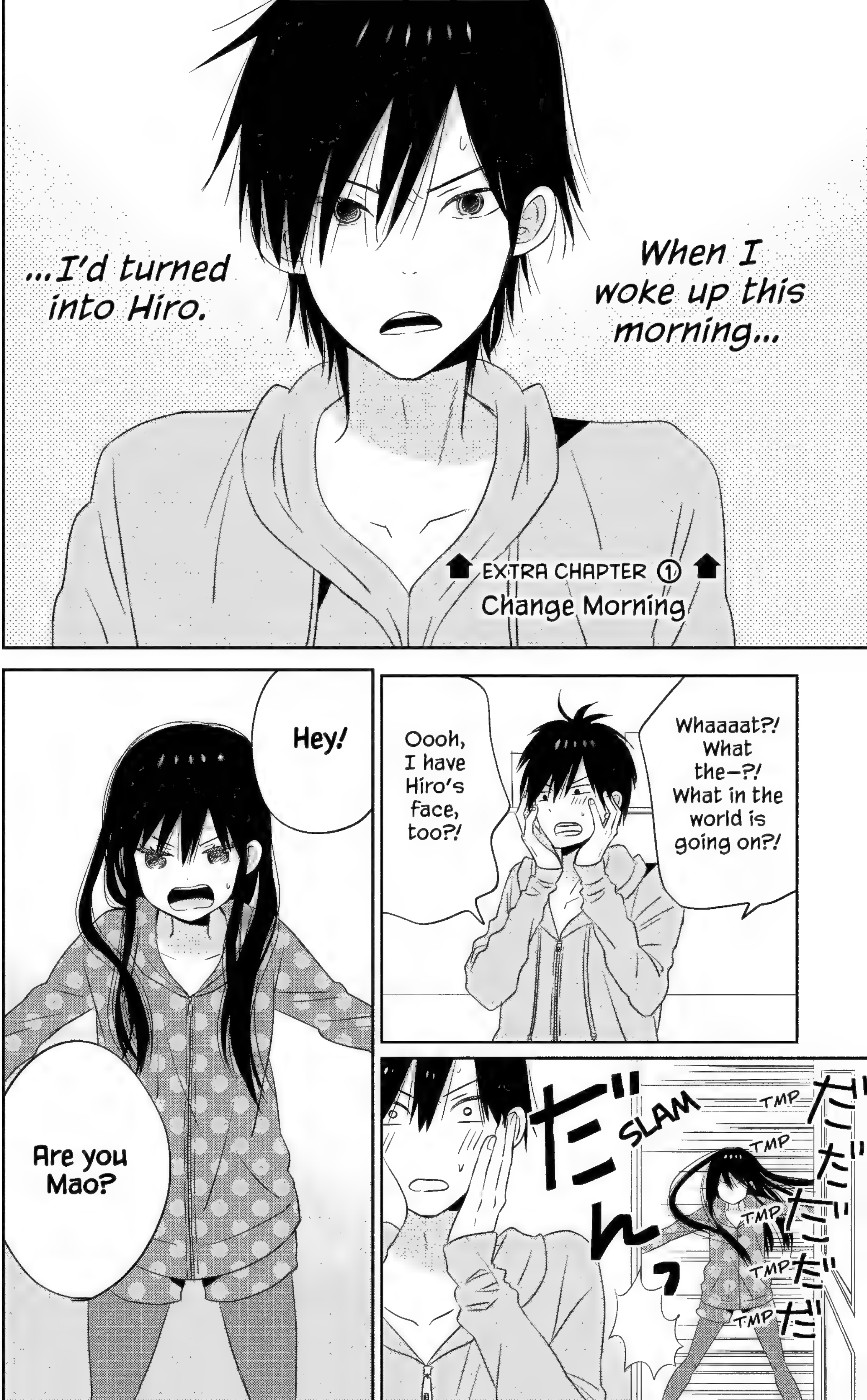

I'd never do something that dumb.
I said it so that you'd think about giving me a chance, Mao.

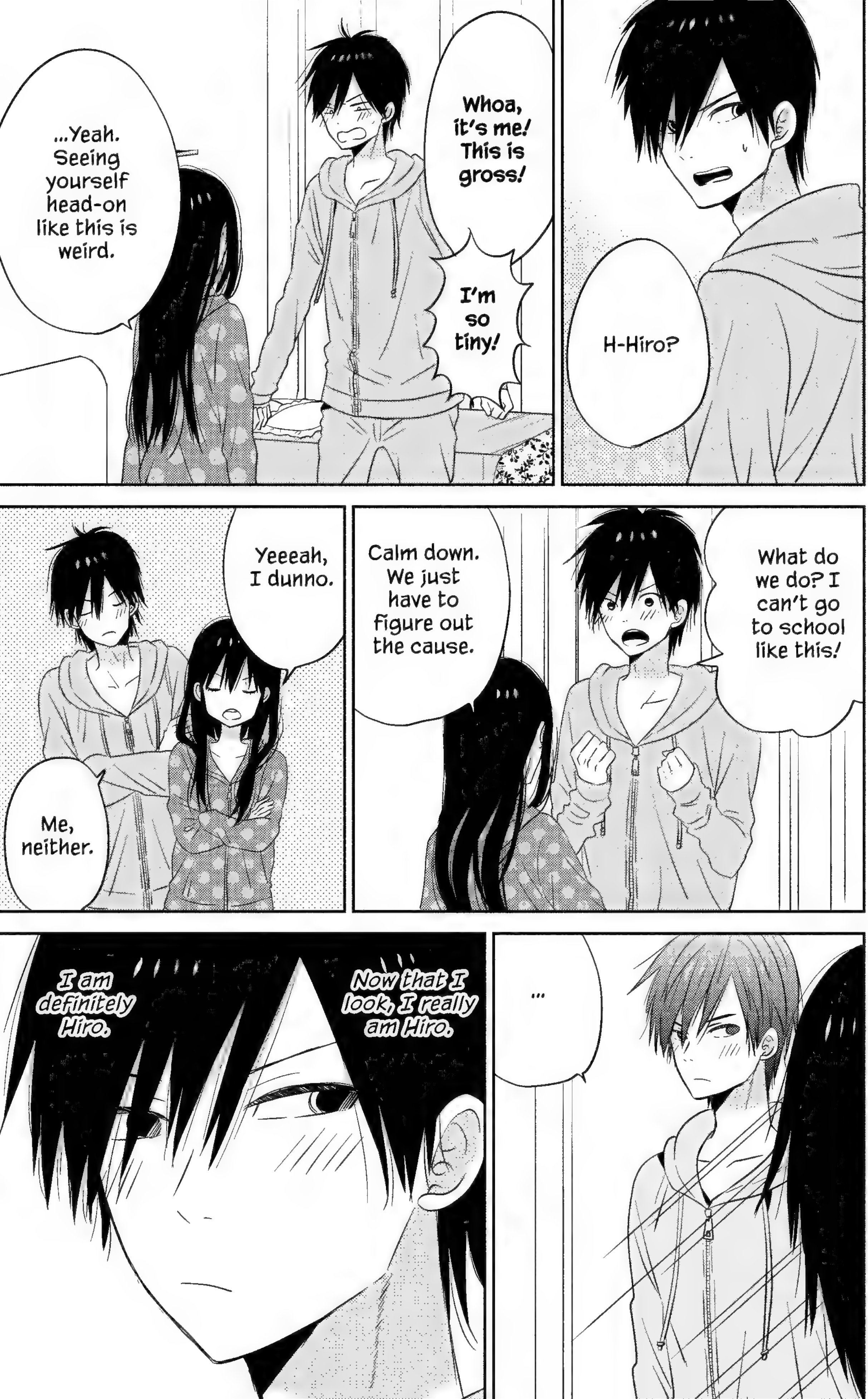

I'm going to tell her how I feel.
TAKKA
カタ
カタ
TAKKA
カタ
TAKKA
Damn it.
I wanna go home.

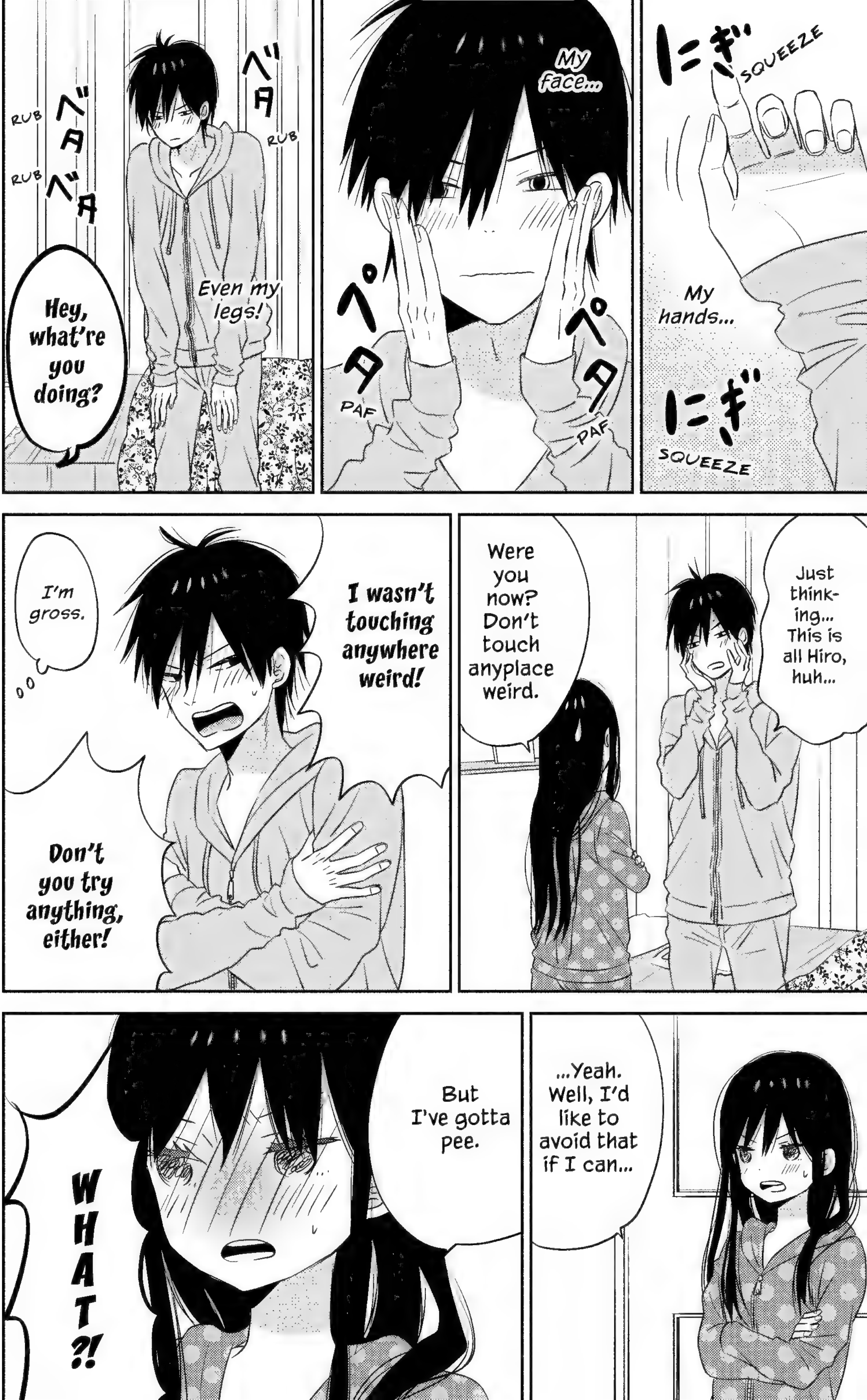
To be continued...

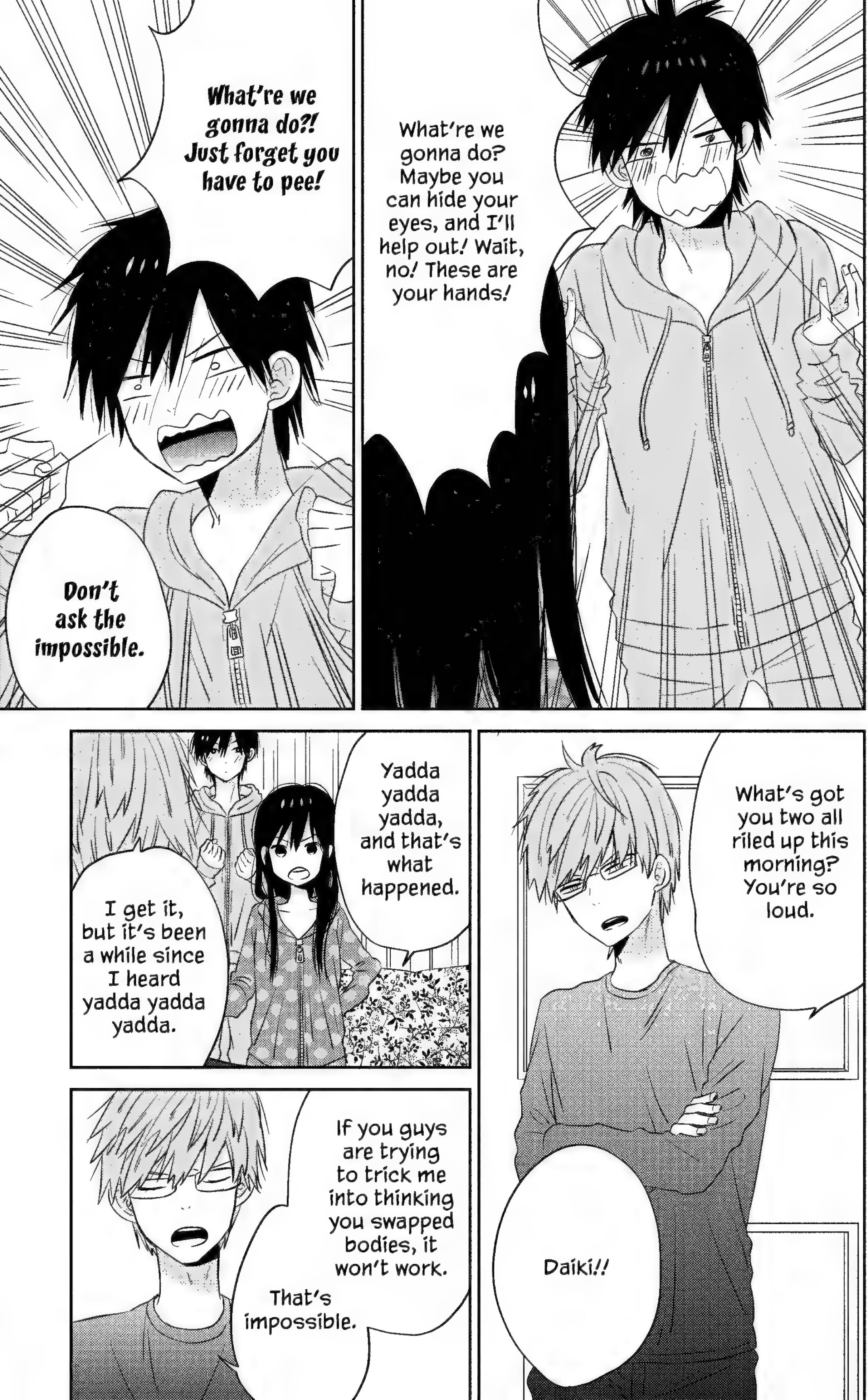
EXTRA CHAPTER ①

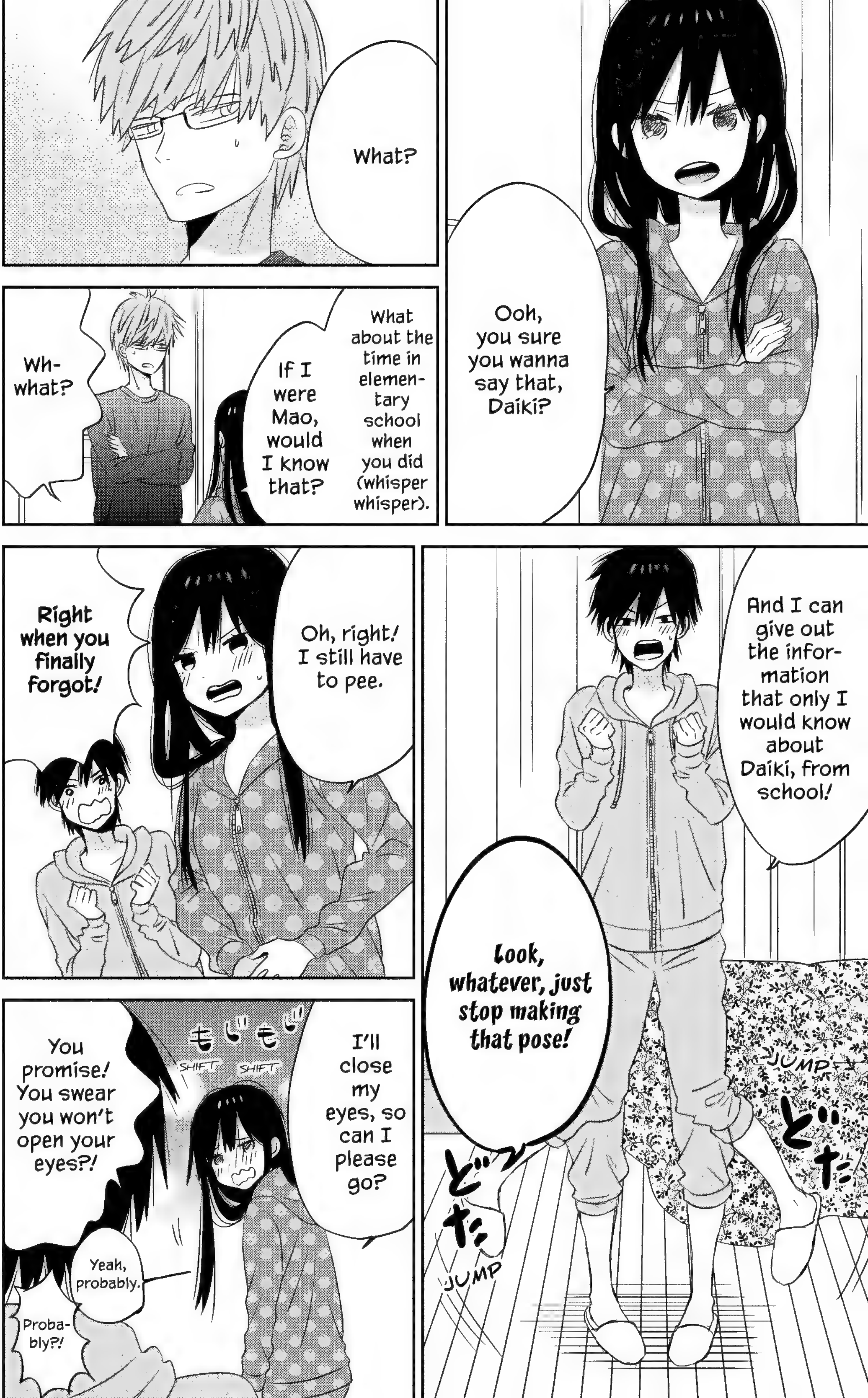
Change Morning

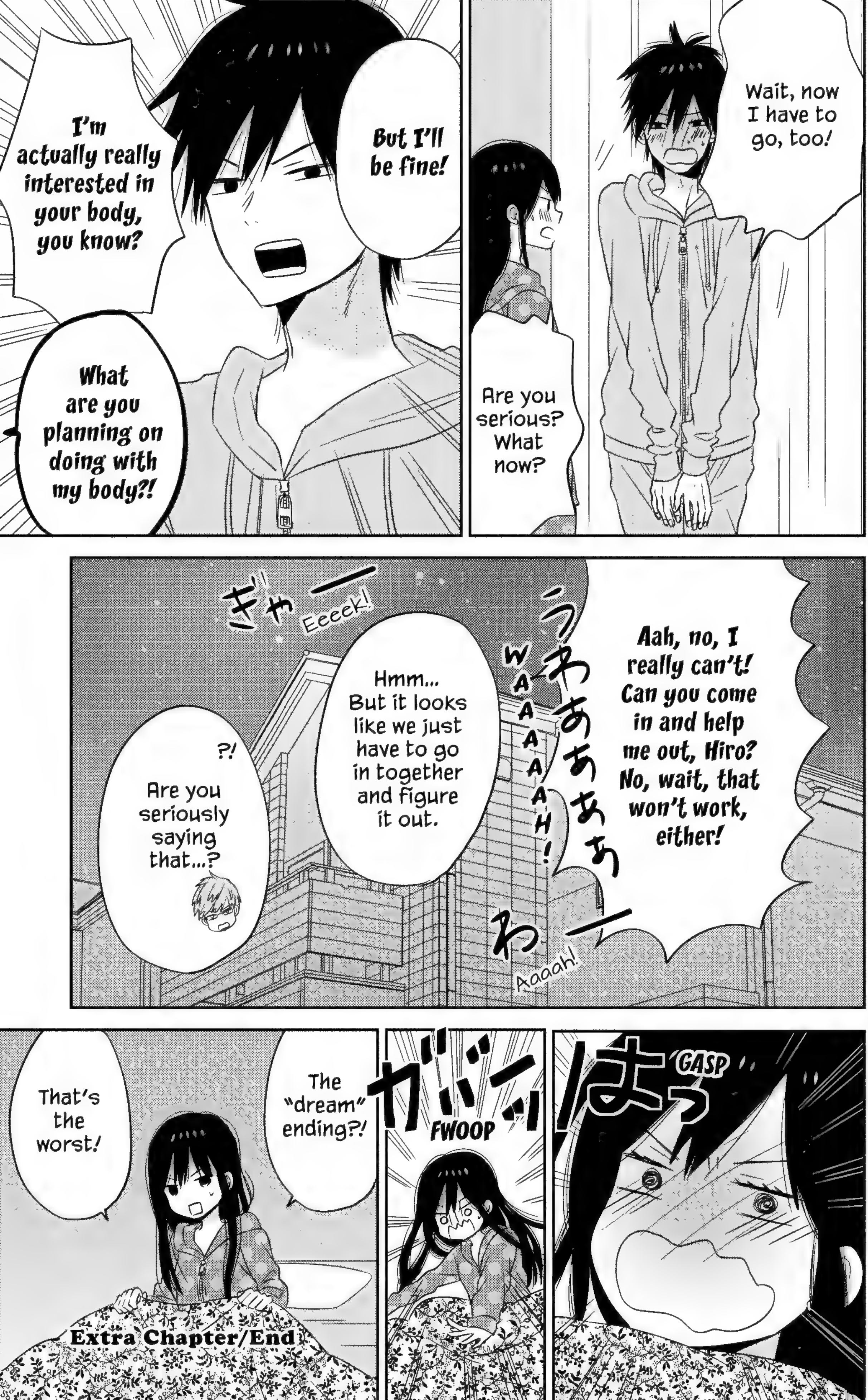

When I woke up this morning...
...I'd turned into Hiro.
Whaaaat?! What the—?! What in the world is going on?!
Oooh, I have Hiro's face, too?!
だだだだだ
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
だんっ
SLAM
Hey!
Are you Mao?


H-Hiro?
Whoa, it's me! This is gross!
I'm so tiny!
...Yeah. Seeing yourself head-on like this is weird.
What do we do? I can't go to school like this!
Calm down. We just have to figure out the cause.
Yeeeah, I dunno.
Me, neither.
...
Now that I look, I really am Hiro.
I am definitely Hiro.


にぎ SQUEEZE
My hands...
にぎ SQUEEZE
My face...
ペタ PAF
ペタ PAF
ベタ RUB
ベタ RUB
ベタ RUB
Even my legs!
Hey, what're you doing?
Just thinking... This is all Hiro, huh...
Were you now? Don't touch anyplace weird.
I wasn't touching anywhere weird!
Don't you try anything, either!
I'm gross.
...Yeah. Well, I'd like to avoid that if I can...
But I've gotta pee.
WHAT?!


What're we gonna do? Maybe you can hide your eyes, and I'll help out! Wait, no! These are your hands!
What're we gonna do?! Just forget you have to pee!
Don't ask the impossible.
What's got you two all riled up this morning? You're so loud.
Daiki!!
Yadda yadda yadda, and that's what happened.
I get it, but it's been a while since I heard yadda yadda yadda.
If you guys are trying to trick me into thinking you swapped bodies, it won't work.
That's impossible.

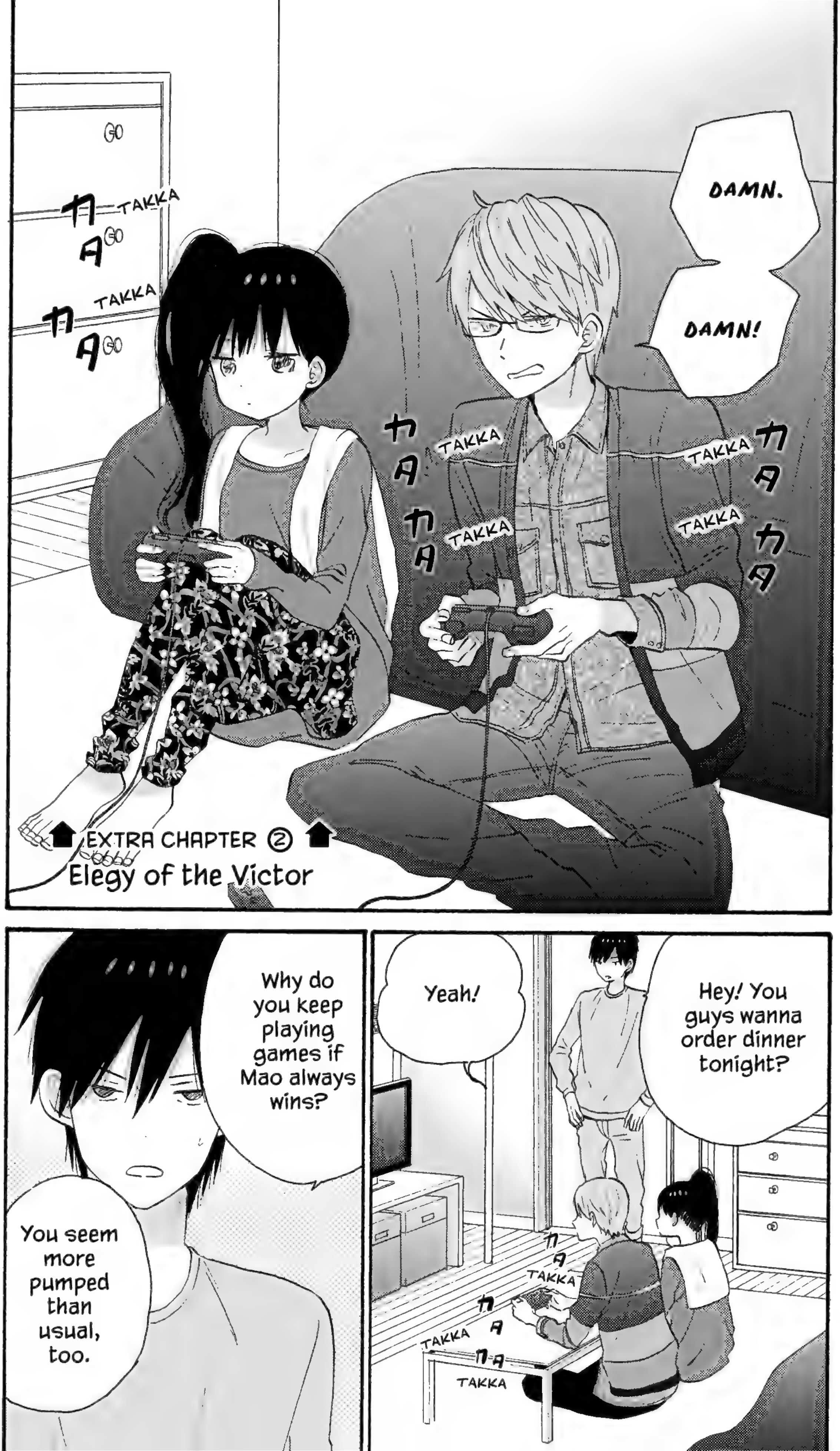

Ooh, you sure you wanna say that, Daiki?
What?
What about the time in elementary school when you did (whisper whisper).
If I were Mao, would I know that?
Wh-what?
And I can give out the information that only I would know about Daiki, from school!
Look, whatever, just stop making that pose!
JUMP
どだ
どだ
JUMP
Oh, right! I still have to pee.
Right when you finally forgot!
I'll close my eyes, so can I please go?
もじもじ
SHIFT
SHIFT
You promise! You swear you won't open your eyes?!
Yeah, probably.
Probably?!

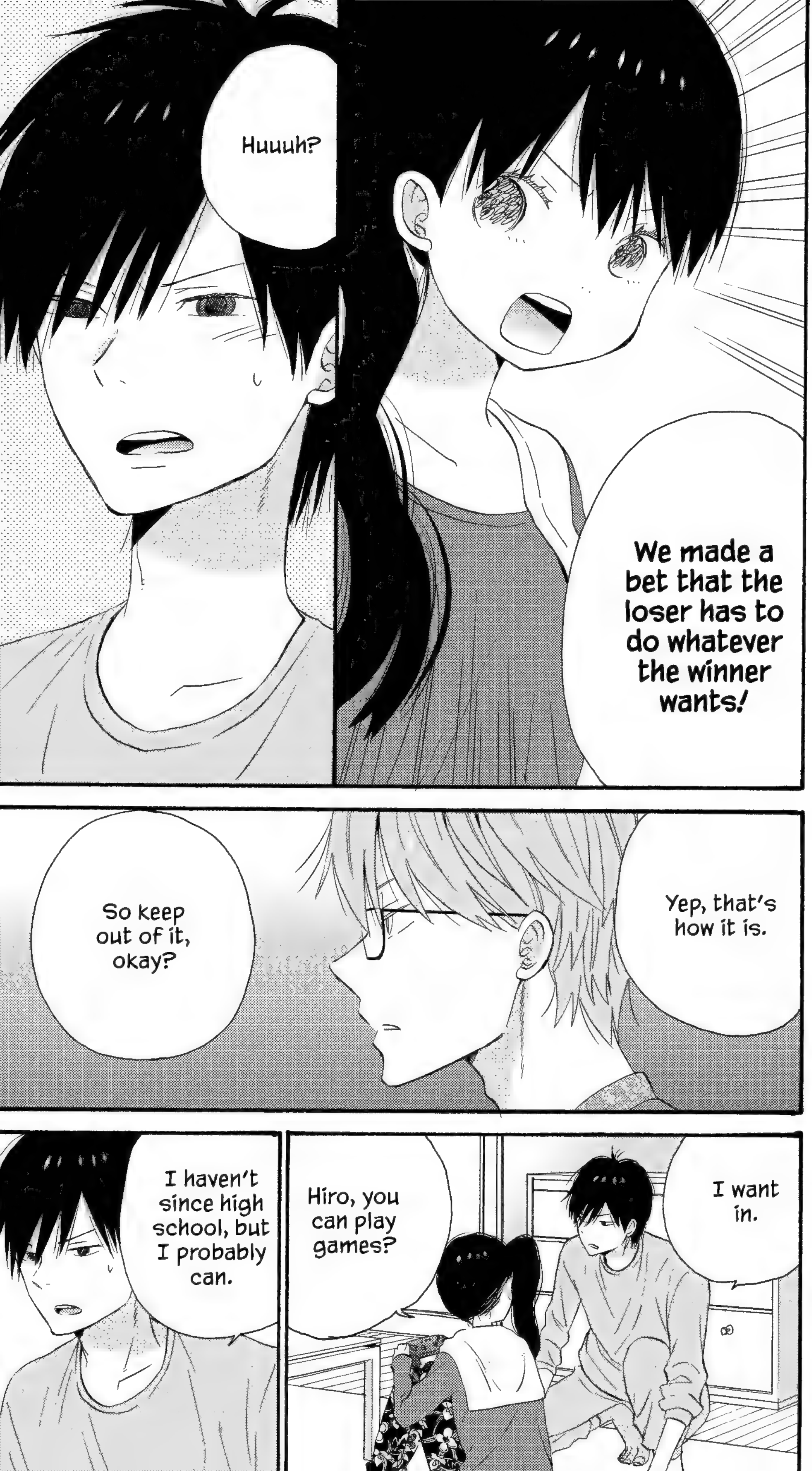

Wait, now I have to go, too!
Are you serious? What now?
But I'll be fine!
I'm actually really interested in your body, you know?
What are you planning on doing with my body?!
Aah, no, I really can't! Can you come in and help me out, Hiro? No, wait, that won't work, either!
うわあああ WAAAAAH!
わー Aaaah!
Hmm... But it looks like we just have to go in together and figure it out.
ぎゃー Eeeek!
?! Are you seriously saying that...?
はっ GASP
ガバッ FWOOP
The "dream" ending?!
That's the worst!

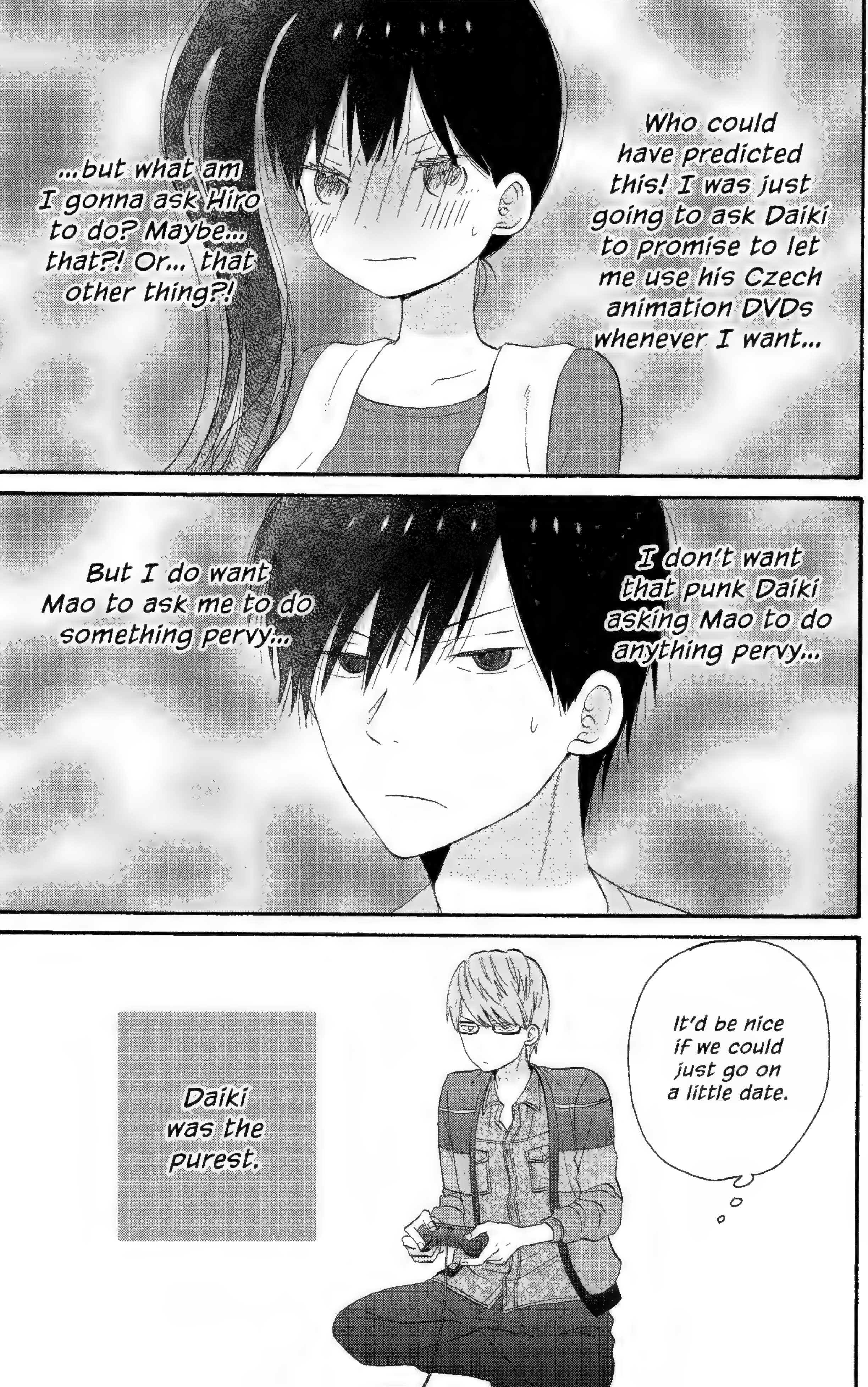
Extra Chapter/End

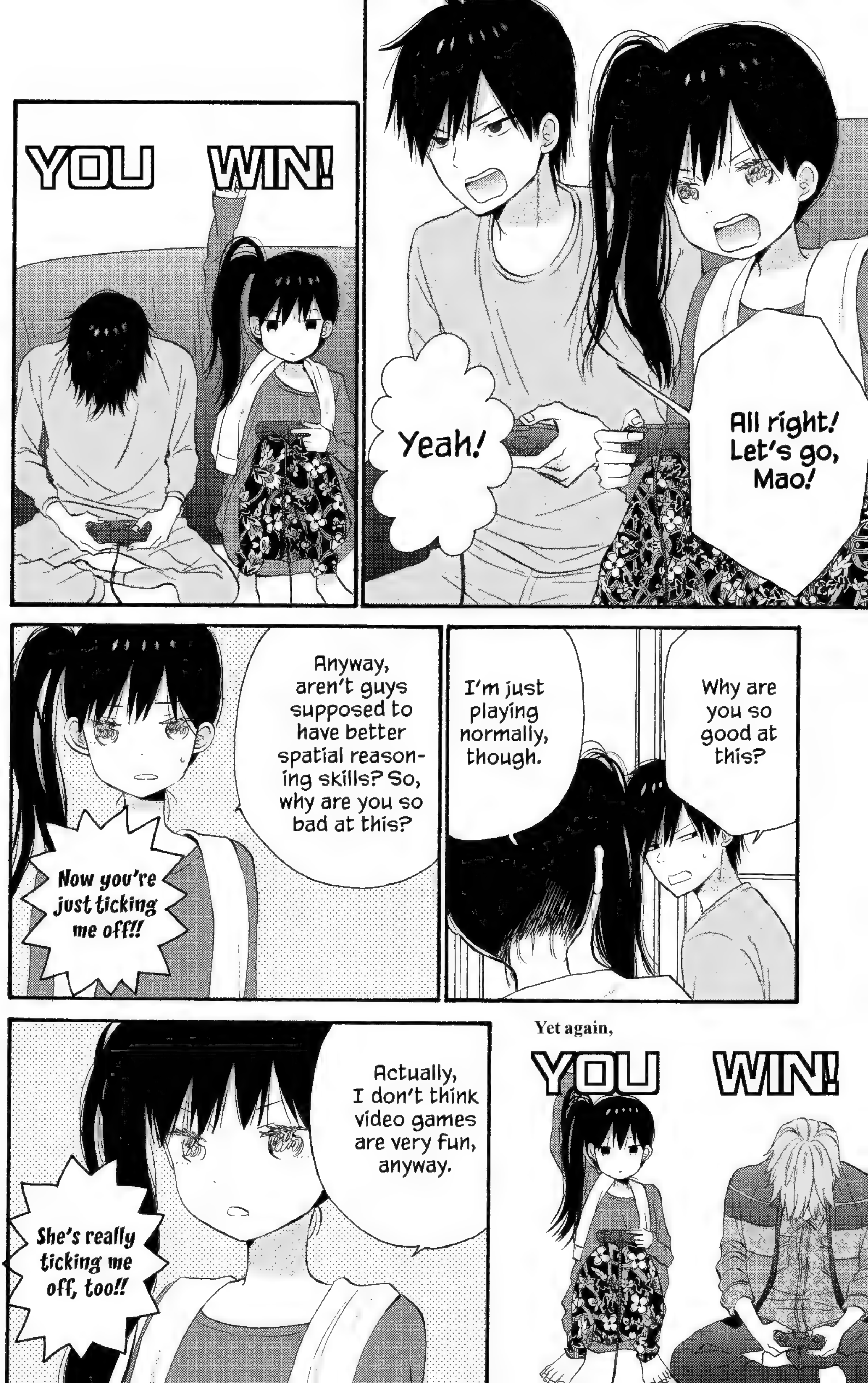
EXTRA CHAPTER ②

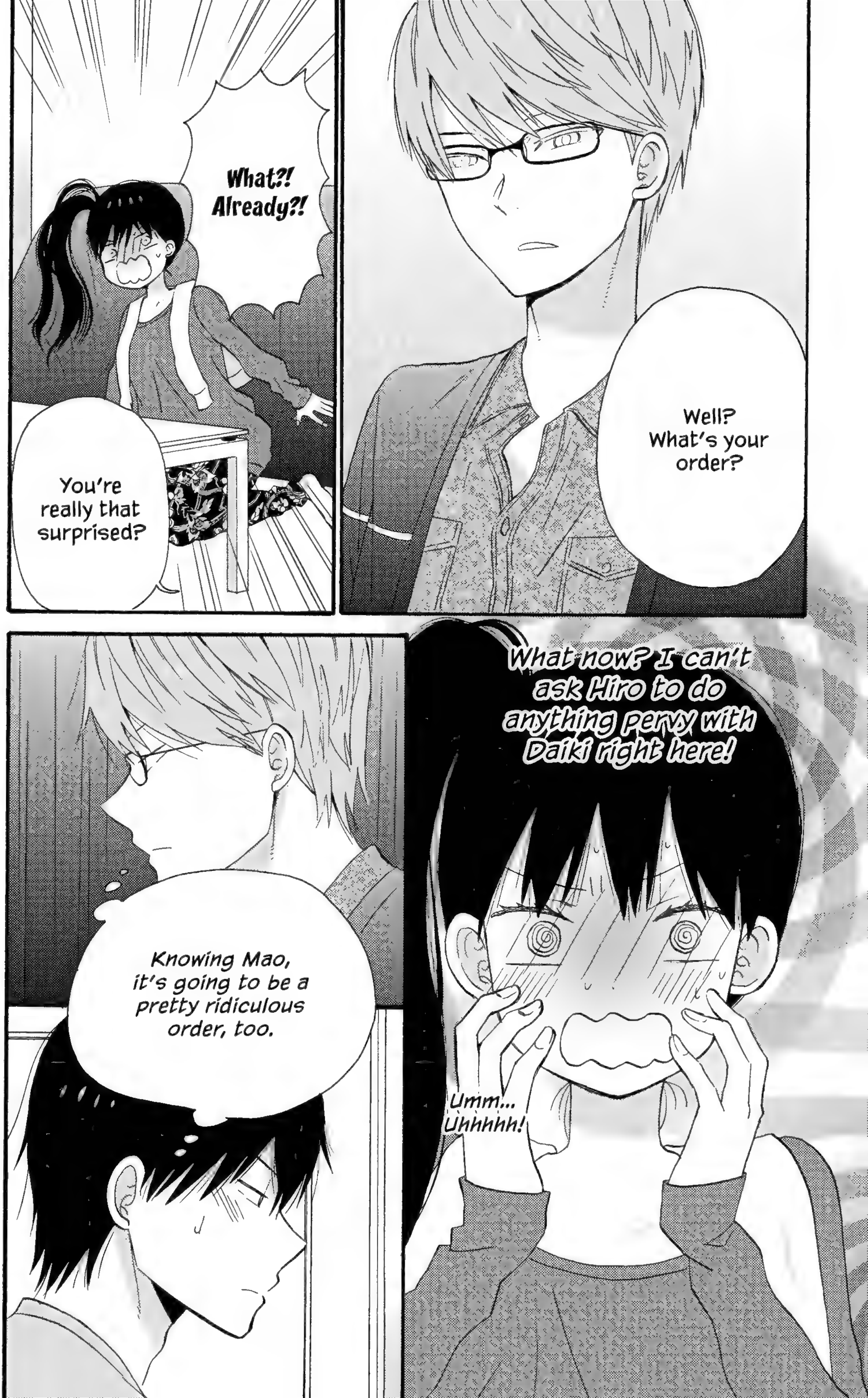
Elegy of the Victor

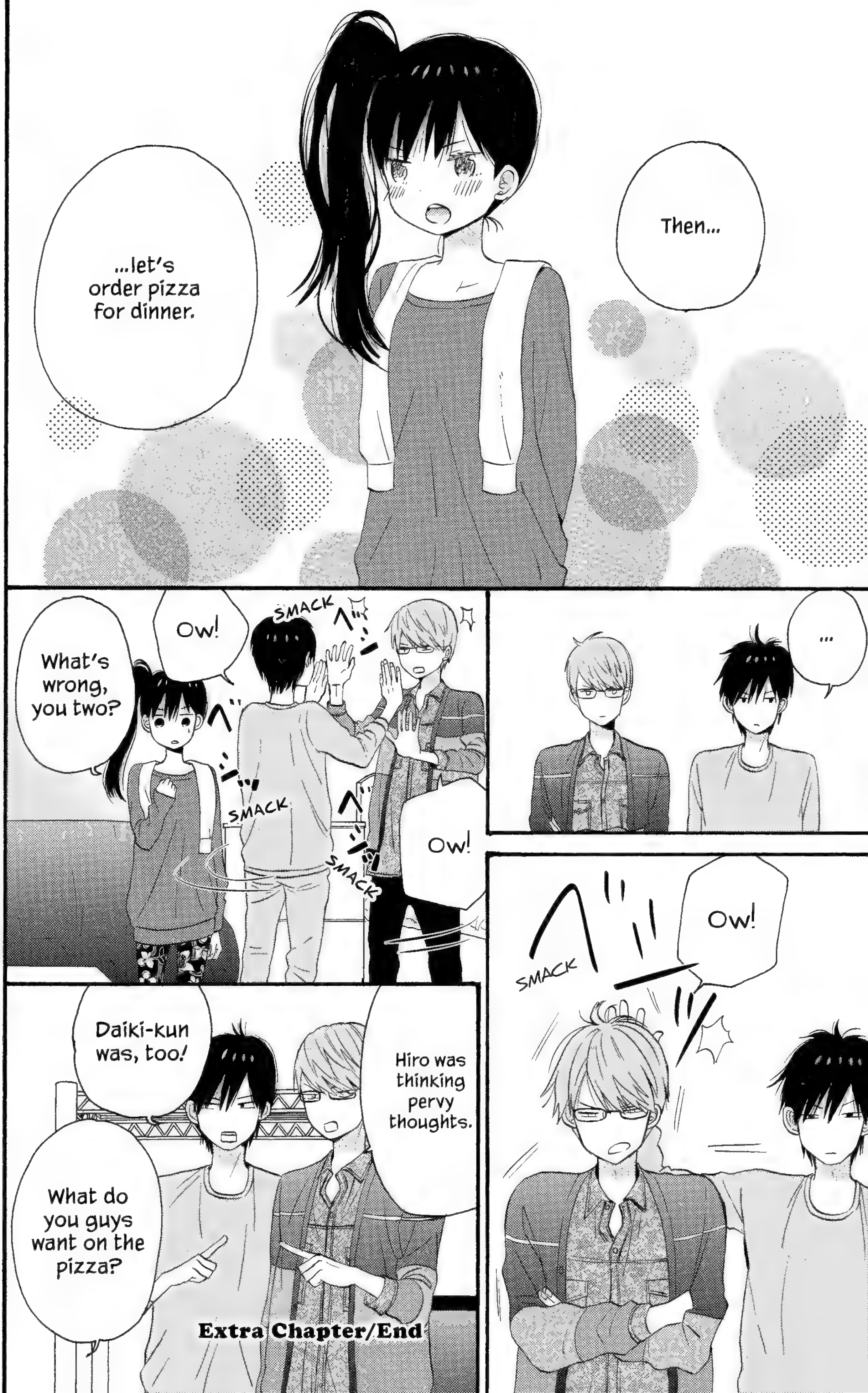

DAMN.
DAMN!
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
GO
GO
GO
Hey! You guys wanna order dinner tonight?
Yeah!
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
カタ TAKKA
Why do you keep playing games if Mao always wins?
You seem more pumped than usual, too.


We made a bet that the loser has to do whatever the winner wants!
Huuuh?
Yep, that's how it is.
So keep out of it, okay?
I want in.
Hiro, you can play games?
I haven't since high school, but I probably can.

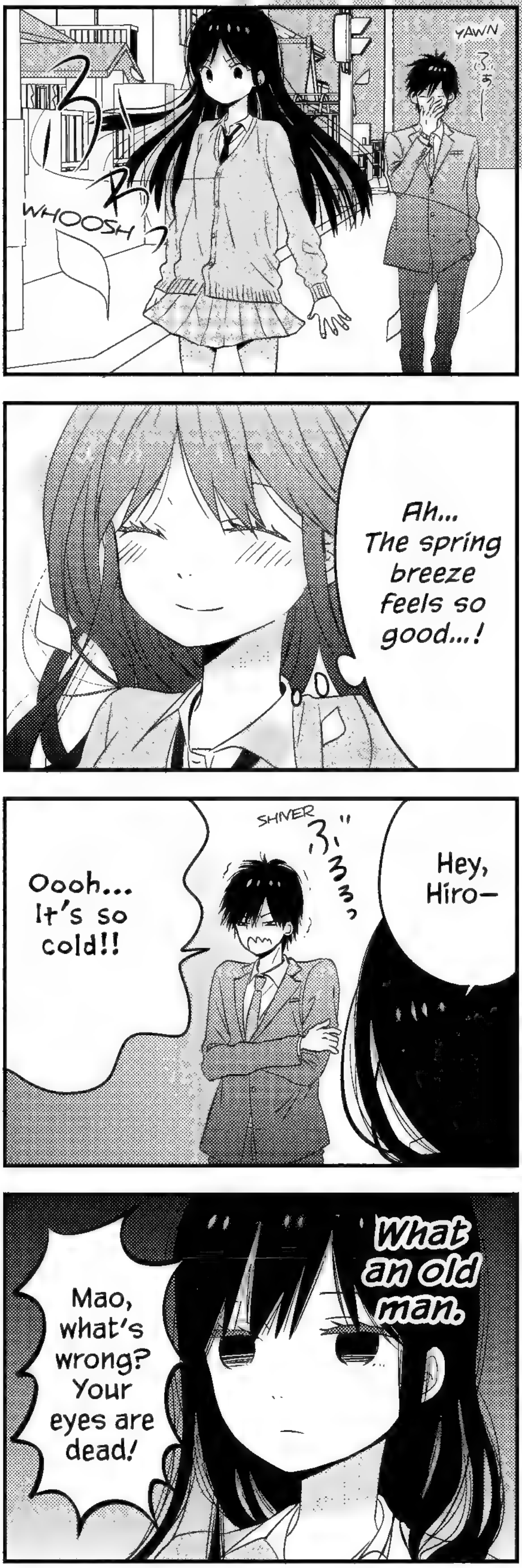

Who could have predicted this! I was just going to ask Daiki to promise to let me use his Czech animation DVDs whenever I want...
...but what am I gonna ask Hiro to do? Maybe... that?! Or... that other thing?!
I don't want that punk Daiki asking Mao to do anything pervy...
But I do want Mao to ask me to do something pervy...
It'd be nice if we could just go on a little date.
Daiki was the purest.


All right! Let's go, Mao!
Yeah!
YOU WIN!
Why are you so good at this?
I'm just playing normally, though.
Anyway, aren't guys supposed to have better spatial reasoning skills? So, why are you so bad at this?
Now you're just ticking me off!!
Yet again,
YOU WIN!
Actually, I don't think video games are very fun, anyway.
She's really ticking me off, too!!


Well? What's your order?
What?! Already?!
You're really that surprised?
What now? I can't ask Hiro to do anything pervy with Daiki right here!
Umm... Uhhhhh!
Knowing Mao, it's going to be a pretty ridiculous order, too.


Then...
...let's order pizza for dinner.
...
SMACK
Ow!
SMACK
Ow!
SMACK
SMACK
Ow!
What's wrong, you two?
Hiro was thinking pervy thoughts.
Daiki-kun was, too!
What do you guys want on the pizza?

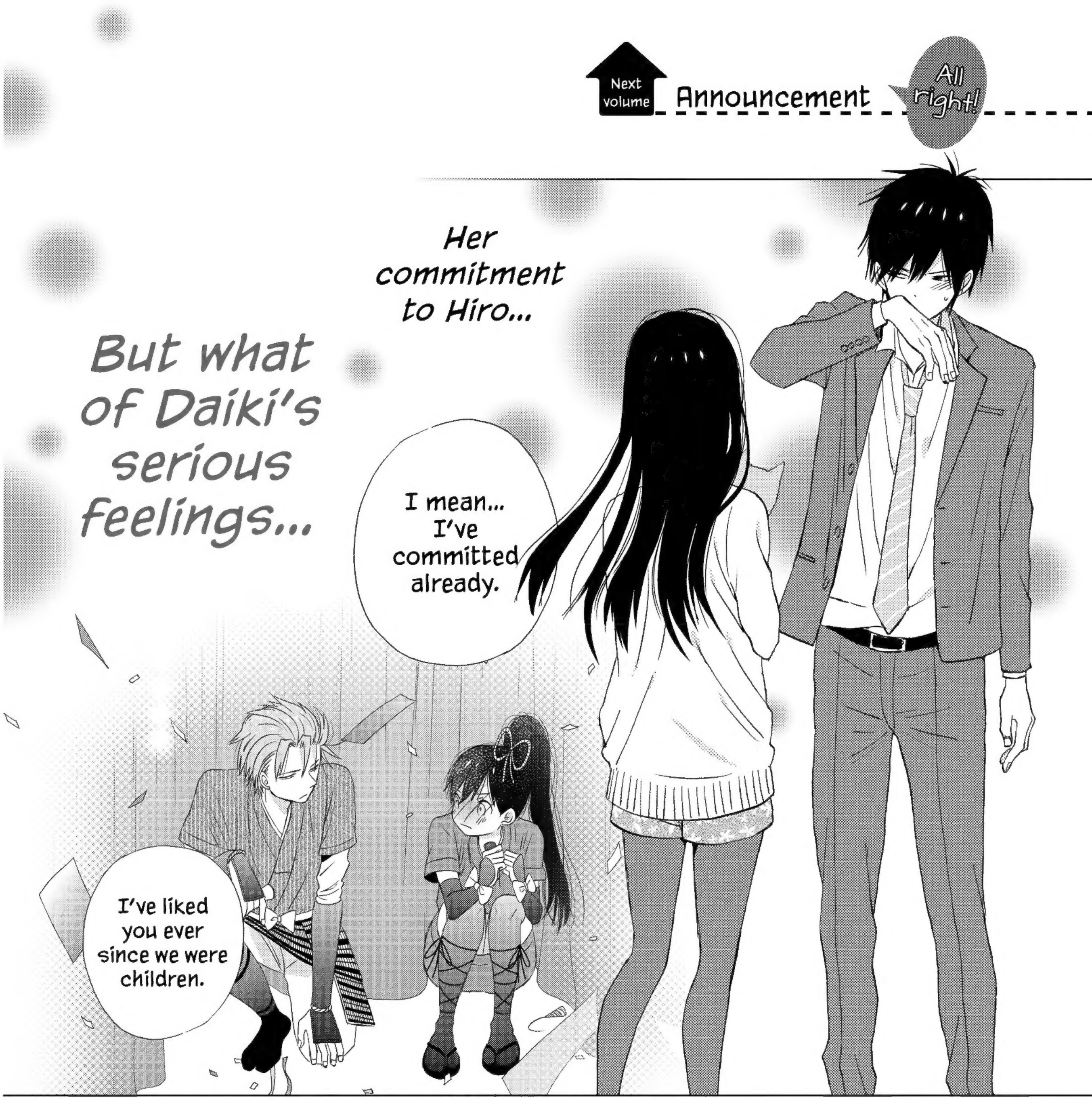
Extra Chapter/End


WHOOSH
YAWN
Ah... The spring breeze feels so good...!
Hey, Hiro—
SHIVER
Oooh... It's so cold!!
What an old man.
Mao, what's wrong? Your eyes are dead!

My parents have the same age gap as Mao and Hiro, so I asked them, "Have you ever really felt that age gap before?" When I asked them, they both answered the same way: "No!" But then my mom said there was just one thing. So I drew this comic of it.

Hope we can meet again in Volume 10!
See ya!

Next volume Announcement


All right!
I mean... I've committed already.
I've liked you ever since we were children.

Her commitment to Hiro...

But what of Daiki's serious feelings...

In the midst of the storm of love being whipped up in the Nakamura home...

What will Mao do?!

HOUSE of the SUN 10

Popular right now!

Looks tough, but at least it means you'll see more of me! ♡

House of the Sun 9

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

House of the Sun volume 9 copyright © 2013 Taamo
English translation copyright © 2017 Taamo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2013 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682338988

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Abby Lehrke
Lettering by Noelle Yamagami
Editing by Jesika Brooks
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.